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## IMPORTANT STATE PAPER.

From the Lisbon MERCURIO LUSITANO, of the 6th and 8th March, 1813.

Report made to the King of Sweden by his Minister of State, and of Foreign Affairs.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF HIS MAJESTY.

SIRE.—The day of complying with the order that Your Majesty gave me of presenting you an exposition of the political relations that have existed for more than two years, between Sweden and France, has arrived.

Nothing honors so much a nation as the publicity that the Government gives to its Diplomatic acts, and nothing better consolidates the harmony of the Monarch with his people, than the open communication of political secrets.—The good patriots will view the account that your Majesty commands me to give as a new proof of the esteem that the Sovereign feels for their information, and of the love that he bears to his country. The nation will know by the adjoined documents, and which your Majesty would have published, the conduct that the government observed during the bloody tragedy of the devastation of Europe.

The relations of Sweden with Great-Britain had not yet come to open hostilities at the end of Nov. of 1810. The commerce of Sweden, though less active, principally on account of the peace of Paris, was not entirely interrupted; such was the moderation of the English Cabinet!

The marks of ill will on the part of France, which, in the year 1810, frequently tended to serious pretensions, seemed at first to relate solely to the rigorous observance of the principles of the continental system in Pomerania; but they were afterwards openly directed against Sweden, and went even to wish to exclude the Americans from our ports. However your Majesty attained preventing these consequences by dint of moderation and perseverance.

Yet it was to be presumed that this happy situation would not continue, therefore Sweden prepared to recruit her forces, debilitated by a terrible war. The Emperor Napoleon had established, as the inviolable rule for subjugated Europe, to acknowledge only as friends the enemies of Great-Britain: that neutrality the ancient bulwark of free States in the strife of the powerful, had now no meaning; and that all the combinations of politics and sense of dignity, end with the power of the arms, and by the irresistible will of him who thus resolves it.

In the beginning of November, of 1810, a few days before the separation of the States of the Kingdom, a despatch of the Baron de Lagerbyelke arrived from Paris. It contained the details of an interview that he had had with his Majesty the Emperor of the French, from which it resulted that your Majesty was to resolve to break the relations with France, or formally to declare war against England. The Minister of France in Stockholm, Baron de Alquier, presented a Note at the same time to the same purpose, and required a decisive answer within the term of five days, observing that he should leave Sweden, if the government did not accede to the wishes of his master.

In such critical circumstances, your Majesty took into consideration the external and internal situation of the kingdom, and saw no means of adopting a free resolution. The powers of the Continent followed at that time the will of France, and the season took away all hope of deriving any assistance from England, in case the kingdom should be attacked in the course of winter. Within the time assigned for an answer, it was impossible to know the dispositions of the neighbouring States; and the resources of the kingdom were so limited, both in money and means of defence, that it was not possible to expect judiciously to support the integrity and liberty of Sweden. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, convinced of the necessity of saving the States, imposed silence on his affections, and solemnly declared, that your Majesty ought not to have any regard to his particular positions, or to his former relations, and that he would execute, with fidelity and zeal, whatever your Majesty should command him, for the glory and preservation of the independence of the Kingdom.

Your Majesty reserving for a more opportune season the efficacious resource contained in the declaration of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, judged it then an imperious necessity to yield to storm; hoping that the Emperor Napoleon would not jeopardize the last resources of Sweden, by rigorously exacting open hostilities against Great-Britain.

The declaration of war had hardly been published against England; and the Swedish commerce left abandoned to the discretion of the British Cabinet, than the French Minister began to develop a plan, afterwards followed uninterruptedly, to induce Sweden to contract

the same obligations, that have occasioned so many evils to the confederated States. At first a numerous corps of sailors was asked, to man the French fleet in Brest, and soon after Swedish troops to be put under French pay; the introduction in Sweden of the tariff of 50 per cent. upon colonial produce; and finally the permission of having French custom-house officers in Gottenburgh. These proposals were not admitted, both on account of the laws of the kingdom and of the interests of the nation; for this reason the dispositions of the French Government towards Sweden soon took a character of hostility.

The Baron de Alquier, shortly after his arrival, spoke of the necessity of a more intimate alliance between Sweden and France; and though he was answered with politeness, the proposal had no effect. He afterwards proposed an alliance between Sweden, Denmark, and the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, under the protection and guarantee of France; this proposal had for its object to create a Confederation of the North, similar in its obligations and design to that which subjected the force of Germany to the dominion of France. But as your Majesty did not judge it convenient for your situation and rights to give an affirmative answer: he renewed, without loss of time, the former proposal of a particular alliance with France. Though the Baron de Alquier had only announced verbally the wish of the Emperor his master, he required a written answer, but in the difficulty of obtaining, he saw the mark of indifference with which the Swedish Government considered the French system.

Your Majesty might undoubtedly have required also that the dispositions of the Emperor Napoleon in regard to the projected alliance, should have been communicated to you fully and in writing; and though it was to be suspected that the written answer, required upon a verbal communication, was only for the purpose of shewing it in St. Petersburg, and to prove that Sweden was entirely dependent on France. Your Majesty resolved to shut your eyes on many considerations, and exerted yourself not to spare any means that might interest the Emperor of the French in favor of Sweden. For this purpose a note was delivered to the Minister, Alquier, in which your Majesty declared your determination to establish intimate relations with France, hoping that the conditions would be compatible with the dignity and true interests of your Kingdom.

The Baron Alquier declared immediately, that this answer was insufficient, and that it even indicated that your Majesty had already taken the resolution of remaining independent of the continental system; and when, in order to be able to answer him more fully, he was asked what the Emperor required of Sweden, and what this country could expect as an indemnification for the new sacrifices to which it would be exposed by the pretensions of France, the Minister confined himself to give this remarkable answer, "that the Emperor required deeds conformable to his system, and that it would afterwards be time enough to treat of what his Imperial Majesty would do in favor of Sweden."

As things were progressing thus, the season for navigating arrived, and the French privateers took Swedish vessels. The Minister of your Majesty in Paris, asked reparation for the injuries done to the Swedish commerce; and representations to the same effect were addressed to the Minister Alquier, but the latter answered with that dictatorial manner which he has always practised in Sweden.

Your Majesty, firm in the resolution of fulfilling faithfully your engagements, watched with an incessant care, that the public orders against the English commerce should be scrupulously observed. In the mean while, the Swedish Government was insulted in the French newspapers, and the immense commerce of Sweden was mentioned with emphasis; however, the considerable decrease of the custom-house revenues in the year 1811, demonstrates the exaggeration and falsity of those imputations.

Though the English Government considered without any irritation the situation of Sweden, and did not think the declaration of war a sufficient motive to molest the Swedish commerce; and this tolerance gave an outlet to the immense depots of the iron of this kingdom, and consequently allayed the fatal consequences of war; your Majesty ought not to have expected, on that account, that the French government would take as grounds of accusation against Sweden this forbearance of England; on the contrary, your Majesty was to expect that the Emperor Napoleon should see, with pleasure, that this kingdom was treated with moderation by a power who had so many means of injuring Sweden.

In the mean while the violence of the French Privateers against the Swedish flag increased daily; the Minister of your Majesty in Paris represented in very

moderate terms the enormous losses that the nation sustained; but far from obtaining the restitution of the captured vessels, and the suppression of such abuses in future, the causes were almost always sentenced in the respective tribunals in favor of the captors; and when, in some cases, the right was so clear that the tribunals sentenced in favor of the Swedes, never did the French government, who reserved to itself the right of validating those decisions, confirm a single one in favour of Sweden. Wherefore the privateers, calculating on impunity, had a free scope to exercise their rapine. It was not sufficient to condemn as good prizes, the Swedish vessels, under pretence that they carried British Licences, or that they must carry them, to capture in the Sound small coasting vessels loaded with provisions and produce of the manufactures of the country; to take those that they found in the ports of Germany, where they waited for cargoes, but the Swedish sailors were treated as prisoners of war, were confined in prisons, and afterwards sent to the ports of Antwerp and Toulon, to serve in the French fleets.

In the course of the summer of 1811 there existed disagreeable and almost daily differences between the Regency of Pomerania and the Vice-Consul of France. To deliver that province from the entrance of French troops, a considerable military force was raised to the great injury of that country, because the Emperor Napoleon expressly demanded it; watching scrupulously the illicit commerce of colonial produce; but notwithstanding so much condescension, it never was possible to satisfy the unlimited pretensions of the French Vice-Consul. A quarrel that happened in Stralsund, between the crew of a French privateer and some recruits of Landsturn, and respecting which it was proved that the French were the first to insult and attack the soldiers of Pomerania, was considered in Paris as an infraction of the peace, and it was asked as a reparation that the soldiers of Your Majesty should suffer the pain of death.

The Baron de Alquier presented in the month of July, an Official Note, the contents of which and its uncircumspect style, produced an answer that put him in mind of the respect due to the nation, and of the regards that sovereigns ought reciprocally to observe.—The Baron de Alquier then declared that he would not continue to correspond with me, and asked that a private person should be appointed to communicate with him.

With what is stated the official correspondence with the Baron de Alquier terminated; however the language used, at that time by the Duke of Bassano, promised some change in the politics of France with Sweden.—Your Majesty learnt with satisfaction, that a proof of it was given in the order recalling that Minister, an order which had been formally required; but the season had hardly removed the English fleet from the Baltic, when the French privateers renewed their violence with more activity than before. Your Majesty was then under the necessity of sending an order to the Navy to bring in the pirates that should molest the trade carried on from one port to another, and that should have captured Swedish vessels.—Many French Privateers that insulted our coasts were driven off, and one, named the Mercury, was taken.

Your Majesty, afflicted to see the evils that your subjects suffered, and the ruin of commerce in the midst of the most solemn peace, ordered that a messenger should be immediately sent to Paris with a circumstantial account of the injuries done to the Swedish commerce; the necessity of a guarantee against the violence of the privateers was again represented. The Charge d'Affaires of France in Stockholm took care of the privateer Mercury and of her crew.

The Charge d'Affaires of your Majesty at Paris executed what he had been commanded. The ministry of France appeared to wish to hear the representations of Sweden, and to examine, with a just impartiality, the wrongs of which she complained. When Your Majesty was flattering yourself with the consoling hope of seeing terminated all the grounds of discord between the two Courts by a sincere and generous explanation of the French Government, Your Majesty was informed that the Prince of Eckmuhl, commander of the French troops in the North of Germany, had already, after the beginning of Autumn, announced that he would order the said troops into Pomerania and the Island of Rugen, as soon as the frost would permit.—The instructions that the Swedish commander had received guaranteed to Your Majesty the defence of your dominions in Germany against any attack of a foreign force. Unfortunately stratagem prevailed over duty; the weakness of the Chief depressed the courage of the Swedish troops and Pomerania was invaded. The posterior accounts from that province were published, to prevent all equivocation upon the nature of so extraordinary a proceeding, (disguised by France under the