

father had resolved to send her to Paris, where she hoped to see the only man she ever loved, and marry him. The credulous fool still believed that all was real, and asked his friend, the Captain, to accompany him; but the latter spoke of the expense; and said, that upon such an occasion they ought to have at their command at least 1,000*l.* Meredith had already overdrawn at his bankers; but, at the suggestion of his friend, he accepted bills to that amount, and handed to the Captain, who proposed to go at once to France, and said that the money should follow them; as his friends, who discounted them, had promised to forward the amount to Paris. The advice was adopted, but no girl was to be found, and no money was forthcoming. The Captain then said he would return to ascertain the cause of the delay, but Meredith was not long by himself when he learned that his disinterested friend had got the bills cashed and determined to keep the produce for the trouble he had been at in aiding the acceptor in his project of a noble connection. At the same moment that he received this disheartening intelligence, a letter arrived from the lady, dated London, and recalling her lover from France. At length he suspected that he was tricked, and upon his return to England he dispatched a friend to the Nobleman, with the whole of the correspondence, which was at once declared to be nothing but a hoax, by His Lordship; who said that his daughters had been in Hampshire all the time Mr. Meredith was wandering about on his Quixotic expedition. So blind was the unfortunate Meredith, and so completely imposed upon by the Captain, that although the latter scarcely took the trouble to disguise his hand-writing, Meredith was indebted to the Post-Office Inspector for the information, that the Captain's letters and the love-letters were all in the writing of the same person. The next step the poor dupe took was, after his acceptances; but his worthy friend had obtained their value, and Meredith was compelled to take them up. The robbery thus effected upon the wretched subject of this article, within four months, by the Captain and his servant, who was no other than the Captain's half-brother, amounted to no less than 1,700*l.*

LONDON, MAY 13.

RUSSIA.

DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST TURKEY.

At length conjecture has ceased to confuse, and rumour to baffle. Authentic intelligence has been received, and the future course of the Emperor Nicholas remains no longer a subject for political speculation. Russia has, at last, assumed that attitude and taken those steps for a summary vengeance, which the blind infatuation of Turkey has for so many months left the world to expect. The sword is not only now drawn, but the scabbard is flung away, and the justice which was denied before the Pruth, the Rubicon of their territories, was passed, will now be claimed from the minarets of their capital. Accounts from Bucharest, to the end of April, confirm this opinion, for they state that the occupation of the Principalities has ceased to be the object of the Russians—that they were to march to Constantinople, and that whilst they crossed the Danube at Galatz and Ishmael, their fleet would land 10,000 men at Burgas. The campaign, it is added, will be soon terminated, for the means of defence were very insignificant, and that the most important events were at hand. The declaration of war is a document of great moment at the present period. It is preceded by a manifesto, in which the Emperor complains of the violation of the treaty of Bucharest in 1812, and of the subsequent treaty of Ackerman—of the illegal seizure of Russian vessels and their cargoes—of the closing of the passage of the Bosphorus to the great injury of the Russian commerce to the Black Sea—of the intrigues of the Porte with Persia to prevent her coming to an amicable accommodation, and of the want of faith in the conduct of the Divan for the last 16 years. All these grievances loudly demand redress, Russia has incessantly endeavoured to maintain peace, but patience has its limits, and the honour of the Russian name, the dignity of the empire, the inviolability of its rights, and the national glory, have marked out its bounds to the Emperor. He therefore orders his army to advance under the divine protection against an enemy, who violates the most sacred obligations of the law of nations.

The declaration enters into a more extensive view of the conduct of the Porte, and at great length cites

the various causes which have determined the present course of Russia, and the conditions upon which she will lay down her arms. The following are its principal points:—

DECLARATION.

“The wishes of Russia to remain at peace with a neighbouring nation have proved vain. Sixteen years have passed since the peace of Bucharest, and for the same period we have seen the Porte act contrary to the stipulations of the treaty, evade its promises or indefinitely delay the fulfilment of them. But too many proofs, which the Imperial Cabinet will adduce, irrefragably prove this infatuated hostile tendency of the policy of the Divan. On more than one occasion, particularly in 1821, the Porte assumed, with respect to Russia, a character of defiance and open hostility. For these three months past, it has again assumed this character, by formal acts and measures which are known to all Europe.

“On the same day that the Ambassadors of the three Powers, who, by a Convention free from all self interestedness, are united in a cause which is no other than that of religion and of suffering humanity, expressed, at their departure from Constantinople, an ardent wish that peace might be preserved, it summoned all nations professing the Mahometan Faith, to arm against Russia, denouncing her as the implacable enemy of Islamism, accusing her of a design to overthrow the Ottoman Empire; and while it announces its resolution to negotiate for the sole purpose of gaining time for arming, but never intending to fulfil the essential articles of the treaty of Akermann, it declares, at the same time, that it concluded that treaty with no other design than that of breaking it.

“Scarcely had the Sultan spoken with the vassals of his Crown, when the privileges of the Russian flag were already violated, the ships covered by it detained, their cargoes sequestered, the Commanders of the ships obliged to dispose of them at prices arbitrarily fixed, the amount of an incomplete and tardy payment reduced to one half, and the subjects of His Majesty the Emperor compelled either to descend into the class of Rayas, or to leave in a body the dominions of the Ottoman Government. General Paskewitch, after the conclusion of a glorious campaign, was negotiating a treaty of peace with Persia, the conditions of which were already accepted by the Court of Teheran. On a sudden, lukewarmness succeeded to the eagerness which had hitherto been shown for the conclusion of a convention which was already approved by both parties in all its particulars. These delays were followed by difficulties, authentic information revealed the secret of the promise of a diversion which was to oblige us to make new efforts.

“Scarcely was the peace of 1812 signed, when the Porte thought that the difficult but eventful circumstances in which Russia then was, might be used with impunity to redouble the violation of its engagements. An amnesty was promised to the Servians; instead of that an invasion took place, and a dreadful massacre. The privileges of Moldavia and Wallachia were guaranteed, but a system of plunder completed the ruin of those unhappy provinces. The incursion of the tribes which inhabit the left bank of Kuban were to be prevented by the care of the Porte; but Turkey, not contented with raising pretensions to several fortresses absolutely necessary for the security of our Asiatic possessions, the weakness of which it had itself recognized by the Convention of Akermann, made them still weaker by favouring, on the coast of the Black Sea, and even in our vicinity, the Slave Trade, pillage, and disorders of all kinds.

“Nay more: then, as now, ships bearing the Russian flag were detained in the Bosphorus, their cargoes sequestered, and the stipulations of the commercial treaty of 1783 openly violated. This took place at the very moment when the purest glory and victory in a sacred cause crowned the arms of His Majesty the Emperor Alexander, of immortal memory. Nothing hindered him from turning his arms against the Ottoman Empire. But that Monarch, a pacific conqueror, superior to every feeling of enmity, avoided even the justest occasion to punish the insults offered him, and would not again interrupt the peace restored to Europe by generous exertions, and with noble intentions, immediately after it had been consolidated. For five years together the Divan was unmoved by the conciliatory overtures of the Emperor Alexander, and endeavoured to try out his patience—to dispute his rights—to call in question his good intentions—to defy

the superiority of Russia, which saw herself bound solely by the wish of preserving the general peace, and to try her patience to the utmost.

“And yet a war with Turkey would not in any way have embarrassed the relations of Russia with her other Allies. No convention containing a guarantee, no positive obligation, incorporated the fate of the Ottoman empire, with the conciliatory stipulations of 1814 and 1815, under the protection of which civilized and Christian Europe reposed after its long dissension, and the Governments found themselves united by the recollections of common glory, and a happy coincidence in principles and views. After five years well meant endeavours, supported by the Representatives of Russia, and equally long evasions and delays on the part of the Porte—after several points of the negotiation relative to the execution of the treaty of Bucharest seemed to be already settled—A general insurrection in the Morea, and the hostile invasion of the chief of a party, unfaithful to his duty, excited in the Turkish government and nation all the emotions of a blind hatred against the Christians in it, without distinction between the guilty and the innocent, Russia did not hesitate a moment to testify its disapprobation of the enterprise of Prince Ypsilanti, at the same time insisting on the necessity of not confounding the innocent part of the population with the seditions, who were to be disarmed and punished. These counsels were rejected, the representative of His Imperial Majesty was insulted in his own residence, the chief Greek Clergy, with the Patriarch at their head, were subjected to an infamous capital punishment, amidst the solemnities of our holy religion. All the Christians, without any distinction, were seized, plundered, and massacred without trial; the remainder fled. The flame of insurrection, far from abating, spread meantime on every side. In vain did the Russian Ambassador endeavour to render the Porte a last service. In vain did he show, by his note of 6th of July 1827, a way to safety and reconciliation. After he had protested against the crimes and ebullitions of rage, unparalleled in history, he found himself obliged to obey the commands of His Sovereign, and to leave Constantinople. The situation of the Divan, notwithstanding the exemplary fidelity of the Servians, became from day to day more hostile towards them; and the occupation of Moldavia and Wallachia was protracted, notwithstanding the solemn promises made to the representatives of Great-Britain, and even notwithstanding the manifest willingness of Russia, as soon as those promises were given, to restore its former relations with the Porte. So many hostile measures could not fail in the end to exhaust the patience of the Emperor Alexander. In the month of October, 1825, he caused an energetic protest to be presented to the Ottoman Ministry; and when a premature death snatched him away from the love of his people, he had just made the declaration that he would regulate the relations with Turkey, according to the rights and the interests of his Empire.

“A new Reign began, and furnished a farther proof of that love of peace which the former Government had left as a fair inheritance. Scarcely had the Emperor Nicholas ascended to the Throne, when he commenced negotiations with the Porte, to settle various differences which concerned only Russia; and on the 23d of March and 4th April, 1824, laid down, in common with His Majesty the King of Great Britain, the basis of a mediation which the general good peremptorily called for.

“Under such auspices the conferences of Akermann were opened. The result of them was, the conclusion of an additional convention to the Treaty of Bucharest, the terms of which bear the stamp of that deliberate moderation, which, subjecting every demand to the immediate principles of strict justice calculates neither the advantages of situation nor the superiority of strength, nor the facility of success. The sending of a permanent mission to Constantinople soon followed this concession on which the Porte could not sufficiently congratulate itself, and the Treaty of the 6th July, 1827, soon confirmed, in the face of the world, the disinterested principles proclaimed by the Protocol of 4th April.

“Confidential overtures, which unfolded to it all the plans of the three Courts, informed it, at the time, that in case of refusal the united fleets of these three Courts would be obliged to put an end to a contest which was no longer compatible with the security of the seas, the necessities of commerce, and the civilization of the rest of Europe.