

LONDON—FEBRUARY.

SLAVE TRADE.

THE Slave Trade being the topic of an important controversy, which will soon be finally determined in Parliament, it will not be unacceptable to our readers to receive information on the subject.—From the utter incapacity of white people to undergo the fatigue of cultivation in the tropical climates of America, the labour of African negroes having been deemed necessary, every European nation possessing colonies in that part of the world, has long since been solicitous to acquire a share in the Slave Trade; among the adventurers in this traffic, the British may be considered as possessing the greatest part of it. During the Government of the Protector, negroes were not carried in numbers to the British West-Indies, and then chiefly to Barbadoes; a few indeed were brought to Virginia by a Dutch ship, as early as 1620; but it was the Royal African Company that first carried on, from England, a vigorous commerce to Africa, in the reign of CHARLES II. We may form an opinion of the magnitude of it, in its most flourishing state, prior to the Revolution in 1688, by considering that the Company employed thirty ships annually, which delivered about five thousand negroes in the West-Indies. The increase of it to its present condition may be attributed to the enterprising spirit of the merchants, to the superior address of those employed in the executive part of it, to the opulence of the manufacturers, which enables them to extend a credit to the former, beyond what can be had in any other country, and the annual grants of Parliament for the maintenance of several forts and factories in Africa; from these concurring circumstances, the British Planters are supplied with negroes on more reasonable terms than their neighbours, and a large surplus is left, which is disposed of to the French and Spaniards for specie.

The importance of this trade to Great-Britain may be determined from the following circumstances: Before the late War, it immediately employed one hundred and eighty ships, about one hundred and forty of which sailed annually for Africa with cargoes amounting nearly to a million sterling, and containing the productions of our settlements in the East and West-Indies, and of British manufactures, to the value of about seven hundred thousand pounds. The circuitous returns of these cargoes have been computed to a million and a half. The artificers and mechanics employed at Liverpool alone received one hundred thousand pounds annually for labour, and materials used in equipping the ships engaged in it; and exclusive of the large sums paid for seamen's wages, the commission and privilege of the Captains and Officers amounted at least to fifty thousand pounds annually, which were realized in that town, and have in a great measure contributed to the rapid increase of its commerce. It cannot be denied that the African trade, connected as it is with the West-Indian commerce, with the trade of our Continental Colonies, and Newfoundland Fishery, is of the utmost consequence to the employment of many thousands of our fellow-subjects, to the naval power of the Empire, and to the royal revenue, all which are conjoined by sympathetic ties. The value of three millions at least of domestic manufactures, exclusive of other merchandize, annually finding a profitable vent by means of the African and West-Indian Trades, and above five millions of property, which arises from the labour of the Negro slaves employed in the West-Indian Islands, being yearly imported from thence, which contributes not less than a million and a half annually to the revenue of the kingdom, to carry on this immense traffic, and to supply those islands with lumber and provision from the continental Colonies and Newfoundland Fishery, gives constant employment to at least five hundred ships, and to about twenty thousand mariners and fishermen.

Thus far we have stated the utility of the Slave Trade: whether this commercial advantage can be reconciled to the laws of humanity, is a question that cannot be determined without examining facts relative to the importation and the treatment of Negroes. With regard to the first point, we are to observe, that a Trade for Negro Slaves is carried on from the river Senegal, in 16 deg. north latitude, to Cape Negro, in 16

deg. south, which comprehends a tract of near four thousand miles of sea-coast, and includes the greater part of the interior country, within the above limits, from the confines of Mount Atlas, across the immense continent of Africa, to Mosambique, on the eastern coast. From the nations bordering on the rivers Senegal and Gambia, the Emperor of Morocco procures annually recruits for his black cavalry, and his subjects are furnished from thence with whatever Slaves they have occasion for. Caravans also travel from thence across the continent to Upper Egypt, with considerable numbers of Negro Slaves, who are forwarded either from Alexandria by sea, or marched through Asia Minor to Constantinople. From the same country, including the districts towards the river Sierra Leone, Slaves are collected for supplying the different States of Barbary, from the ports of which, some of these Slaves are sent to the Moors, and to the Turkish Islands in the Mediterranean; hence it is that the African coast, from Senegal to Sierra Leone affords, comparatively, but few Slaves to the European Traders. From Mosambique, and the ports on the eastern coast of Africa, great numbers are sent to Persia, Goa, and other parts of the East-Indies; and in proportion as the culture of the West-Indian Islands, and other European Settlements in America, has been extended, a demand for the labour of African Negroes has regularly increased there; so that at present their number amounts to about eighty thousand annually, of which the British purchase about forty thousand; the French, twenty thousand; the Portuguese, ten thousand; the Dutch, six thousand; and the Danes, four thousand. Of the forty thousand purchased by the British, about a twentieth part are calculated to die on the voyage, and three-fourths of those that arrive in the West-Indies are disposed of to the French and Spaniards; the remainder are distributed in the British Islands. It is not to be omitted, that the complete cultivation of Jamaica will require an addition of several thousand Negroes for many years. The Island of Trinidad, conquered from the Spaniards, will require a considerable number of African hands to render it a profitable object. There are many other Islands in the same predicament, though in a less degree.

When the prodigious demand for African negroes, which has existed for time immemorial in Mauritania, Egypt, Persia, and the East, is considered, and in addition to that, the immense exportation of late years to America and the West-Indies, it might be presumed that a visible decrease of inhabitants would be the consequence of these annual drains; but from the concurring testimony of the most intelligent persons, who have visited that country, it does not appear that this speculation is justified by experience. The consequence of polygamy, is in itself sufficient to make population exceed all bounds. A curious instance of it may be seen in an account of Morocco, written by a French Ambassador, sent thither by Louis XIV. This writer informs us, that, during his embassy, the Emperor of Morocco had a guard, consisting of three hundred of his own sons, all about the same age, or at least with the variation of a few months. There is no country in the world swarming with so many inhabitants as Negroland, a circumstance that induces the African Princes to sport with the lives of their subjects. Negroland is divided into a multitude of States, every one of which is swayed by some inhuman Despot. A few outlines of the Government of Dahomy, a maritime Kingdom in Negroland of considerable extent, will serve to give an idea of the manner in which the subjects are treated by African Princes. The King of Dahomy is absolute master of the liberty, life, and property of every person in his dominions, and nothing can equal his savage cruelty and oppression; piles of his subjects' heads, are placed as ornaments before his palace gates, on festival days, and on every public occasion; and the floors leading to his apartment are strewn with their bodies, to impress those that approach him with respect and terror. The area before his bed-chamber is paved with skulls of prisoners taken in war, that he may daily enjoy the savage gratification of literally trampling on the heads of his enemies. As the character and conduct of the other African rulers is on the same principle, it cannot be supposed that the Negroes imported by our merchants have reason to regret the place of their nativity: as to the treatment which they receive in our

Islands, the interest of their masters seems to decide the question.

We do not, however, wish to deliver any decisive opinion on the justice of the traffic. We have only represented facts as they are. Mr. PITT and Mr. FOX are both strenuous for the abolition of the Slave Trade; as to the former, he may have reasons which he has not yet made public; but the Head of the Whig Club ought certainly not to forget the Statute 9 and 10, of WILLIAM III. a Whig King, declaring that the Slave Trade was highly beneficial.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 19.

Private letters from France state, that the Austrian and Russian Ministers at Paris have already presented Notes against the late extraordinary measure of annexing the Italian Republic to France, by the Consul's assumption of the sovereign authority of the former state. This proceeding we anticipated in the first instance, from a persuasion that the great Powers of the Continent could not view with indifference the dangerous progress of Bonaparte's ambitious career. What impression those Notes have made upon the Consular Government is not at present ascertained; but we fear there is very little likelihood of their producing any salutary change in the inflexible disposition of such a man as Bonaparte. Already, according to the same accounts, has he caused orders to be issued for all officers of the Army of Italy to join immediately their respective corps; and should the Councils of the surrounding States, be actuated by an equal firmness of determination, the germ of war, produced by the late unprincipled conduct of France, will become, ere long, matured, and spread its hostile ramifications throughout the principal part of Europe. The recognition of Bonaparte's new power, has we understand, been proposed to the British Government: but in this stage of the question, it is not for us to make any further observations upon so delicate a subject.

Holyhead, Jan. 22.—On Wednesday evening one of the heaviest gales known here for many years commenced from the westward, accompanied by a very heavy sea. On Thursday morning a sloop was driven on shore; but fortunately one life only lost. In the afternoon the Schem of Portland, a large American ship, bound to Dublin, and laden with a valuable cargo of Tobacco was driven on this coast and anchored off a reef of rocks, with a signal of distress flying. At half past four she parted, and struck on the rocks, the sea making a fair breach over her. She, however, got over, but drifted to leeward into the harbour and again struck on another reef, exhibiting a most melancholy sight, having cut away her main and fore-mast: nor for many hours was there a hope of saving a life from on board her.

A very liberal subscription of forty guineas, by Gentlemen detained here on their passage to Ireland, induced six brave fellows to attempt to get on board, which they effected, and in spite of a tremendous sea, saved, by several excursions the whole crew. The repeated and personal exertions of Capt. Skinner, of the Leicester packet, who alone of the Gentlemen of his profession, remained with lights on the rocks during the night, and took every requisite and humane precaution, contributed much to deliver them from this dreadful situation, which appeared to a crowd of spectators on the rocks, totally hopeless. The ship is bilged, and will shortly go to pieces. Two other vessels are driven on shore in the neighbourhood.

DUBLIN, Feb. 23.

Amidst the storms and inundations that have lately done so much damage all over Europe, and which have foolishly enough been ascribed to the near approach of the two largest planets in our system, that which took place at Trieste, on the 3d ult. is particularly remarkable.—It hailed and rained alternately all the evening of that day till about midnight.—The Heavens then grew excessively dark, and in two hours afterwards, a most tremendous thunder-storm took place, which ended in an overflowing of the sea into the very streets of the town.—These were navigable for boats during five or six hours, which entered into them from the open beach; and after the water had filled all the magazines in the lower city, and caused an irreparable loss to the mercantile interest, about seven in the morn-

ing it retired, accompanied with a very smart shock of an earthquake. There being no tide in the Mediterranean, increases the difficulty of accounting for this phenomenon, which difficulty unless the event be ascribed to a previous earthquake as its cause, is evidently very great.

From the PORTLAND GAZETTE.

TREATY

Signed at Madrid, 21st March, 1801, by the Prince of Peace, and Lucien Bonaparte.

The First Consul of the French Republic and his Catholic Majesty desirous of permanently determining the states which the son of the Infant of Parma shall receive, as an equivalent for the Dutchy of Parma, have agreed to the following articles, and have named as Plenipotentiaries, by the First Consul, Lucien Bonaparte, Ambassador from the French Republic, and by his Catholic Majesty, the Prince of Peace, who have determined on the following Articles:

Art. I. The reigning Duke of Parma forever renounces both for himself and heirs, the Dutchy of Parma, with all its dependencies, in favour of the French Republic; the renunciation of which shall be guaranteed by His Catholic Majesty. The Grand Dutchy of Tuscany, which the Grand Duke also renounces, the cession of which is guaranteed by the Emperor of Germany, shall be given to the son of the Duke of Parma, as an indemnification for the countries ceded by the Infant, his father, and in consequence of a Treaty which had been previously concluded between his Catholic Majesty and the French Republic.

II. The Prince of Parma shall repair to Florence, where he shall be acknowledged as sovereign of all the possessions appertaining to the Grand Dutchy, and shall receive from the hands of the constituted authorities, the keys of the forts and the oath of fidelity which they owe him in his character of sovereign.

The authority of the First Consul will contribute to the peaceable execution of these acts.

III. The Prince shall be acknowledged King of Tuscany, with all the honors appertaining to his rank; the First Consul will acknowledge and will have him treated as such by the other powers. The arrangements necessary for this purpose shall be made previous to his taking possession.

IV. That part of the Isle of Elba which belongs to Tuscany, and is dependent on that state, shall remain in the power of the French Republic, and the First Consul shall give as an indemnity for it, to the King of Tuscany, the country of Pombino, which appertains to the King of Naples.

V. As this Treaty derives its origin from that which has been concluded by the First Consul with his Catholic Majesty, by which the King cedes to France the possession of Louisiana, the contracting parties agree to execute the articles of the anterior Treaty; and to employ their respective power in the adjustment of the differences therein mentioned.

VI. As the new house, which is thus established in Tuscany, is of the family of Spain, these states shall be forever the property of Spain, and there shall be called to the throne an Infant of that family. If the reigning King or his children shall not have heirs, the son of the reigning King of Spain shall succeed to these estates.

VII. The First Consul, and his Catholic Majesty, agree to obtain for the reigning Duke of Parma, in consideration of the renunciation he has made in favor of his son, just indemnities, either in possessions or revenues.

VIII. The present treaty shall be ratified and exchanged in three weeks.

(Signed)

LUCIEN BONAPARTE.
PRINCE OF PEACE.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of LAWRENCE DUNLOP, of the City of Saint John, Merchant, deceased, are requested to present them properly attested, within twelve months from the date hereof, to either of the Subscribers.—And all those indebted to said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

THOMAS LAWTON,

OR

WILLIAM WHITLOCK,

Administrators to said Estate.

St. John, December 8th, 1801.