

LONDON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IN the debate in the British House of Commons last month, on the subject of the naval defence of the country, after the lengthy speeches of Messrs. Pitt, Tierney and Admiral Berkeley—Sir Edward Pellew observed, "As I very seldom trouble the house, I hope I may be permitted to make a few observations on a subject of which, from the professional experience I have had, I may be presumed to have some knowledge. From the debate of this night, there is one piece of information I have acquired, that the French have got upwards of a thousand vessels at Boulogne. I am glad to find that they are shut up there; we have one advantage in it—we know where they are—I wish we had any means of knowing when they intend to come out. I know this much, however, that they cannot all get out in one day, or in one night either; and when they do come out, I trust that our cockle-shells alone, as an Hon. Admiral has called a very manageable and very active part of our force, will be able to give a good account of them. Sir, I do not really see, in the arrangement of our naval defence, any thing to excite the apprehensions of even the most timid among us; on the contrary, I see every thing that may be expected from activity and perseverance to inspire us with confidence. I see a triple naval bulwark, composed of one fleet acting on the enemy's coast, of another, consisting of heavier ships, stationed in the Downs, ready to act at a moment's notice, and a third close to the beach, capable of destroying any part of the enemy's flotilla that should escape the vigilance of the other two branches of our defence. I beg pardon for troubling the House, (*a universal cry of Hear! Hear!*) but accident brought me here, and I intend that my stay should be as short as possible—(*a great laugh.*) In respect to what has been said of building ships by contract, I must confess that I do not much admire that mode of keeping up our navy. I have seen some of them, I particularly allude to the Ajax and Achilles, that I took for Frenchmen. As to gun-boats, they are the most contemptible force that can be employed—gun brigs, indeed, are of some use; but between a gun brig and a gun boat there is almost as much difference as between a ship of the line and a frigate. I have lately seen half a dozen of them lying wrecked upon the rocks. As to the possibility of the enemy being able, in a narrow sea, to pass through blockading and protecting squadrons, with all that security, and by those hidden means that some worthy people expect, I really, from any thing that I have seen in the course of my professional experience, am not much disposed to concur in it. I know, Sir, and can assert with confidence, that our navy was never better supplied, and that our men were never better fed or better clothed. Have we not all the enemy's ports blockaded, from Toulon to Flushing? Are we not able to cope, any where, with any force the enemy dare to send out against us? And do we not even outnumber them at every one of those ports we have blockaded? It would smack a little of egotism, I fear, were I to speak of myself (*Hear! Hear!*); but as a person lately having the command of six ships, I may be allowed to state to the House how I have been supported in that command.—Sir, during the time that I was stationed off Ferrol, I had ships passing from the fleet to me every three weeks or a month: and so much was the French commander shut up in that port deceived by these appearances, that he was persuaded, and I believe is to this very hour, that I had twelve ships under my command; and that I had two squadrons to relieve each other, one of six inside, and another of six outside." Messrs. Wilberforce, Fox and others followed—when the question on Mr. Pitt's motion for an official statement of the naval force, and the distribution of the services was lost, 130 to 201.

ST. DOMINGO.

LIBERTY OR DEATH.

IN JACQUES DESSALINES, Governor General, to the Inhabitants of Hayti.

Crimes, the most atrocious, such as were, until then, unheard of, and would cause nature to shudder, have been perpetrated—the measure was overstepped.—At length the hour of vengeance has arrived, and the implacable enemies of the rights of man have suffered the punishment due to their crimes. My arm raised over their heads too long delayed to strike. At that signal, which the justice of God has urged, your hands, righteously armed, have brought the axe upon the ancient tree of slavery and prejudices. In vain had time, and more especially the infernal politics of Europeans, surrounded it with brags: you have stripped it of its triple armour: you have placed it upon your heart that you may become (like your natural enemies) cruel and merciless. Like an overflowing, mighty torrent, that bears down all opposition, your vengeful fury has carried away every thing in its impetuous course. Thus perish all tyrants over innocence—all oppressors of mankind!

What then! bent, for many ages, under an iron yoke: the sport of the passions of men, of their injustice, and of the caprices of fortune; mutilated victims of the cupidity of white Frenchmen: after having fattened with our toils, these insatiate bloodsuckers, with a patience and resignation unexampled; we should again have seen that sacrilegious horde make an attempt upon our destruction without any distinction of sex or age; and we, men without energy, of no virtue, of no delicate sensibility, should not we have plunged in their breasts the dagger of desperation? Where is that vile Haytian, so unworthy of his regeneration, who thinks he has not accomplished the decrees of the eternal, by exterminating the blood-thirsty Tigers? If there is one, let him fly: indignant nature discards him from our bosom; let him hide his shame far from hence; the air we breathe is not suited to his gross organs, it is the pure air of liberty, august and triumphant.

"Yes we have rendered to these true cannibals, war for war, crime for crime, outrage for outrage: yes, I have served my country: I have avenged America. The avowed

I make of it, in the face of earth and heaven, constitutes my pride and my glory. Of what consequence to me is the opinion which contemporary and future generations will pronounce upon my conduct? I have performed my duty; I enjoy my own approbation; for me, that is sufficient.—But what do I say? The preservation of my unfortunate brothers, the testimony of my own conscience, are not my only recompense; I have seen two classes of men born to cherish, assist and succour one another—mixed, in a word, and blended together, trying for vengeance, and disputing the honour of the first blow.

Blacks and yellows, whom the refined duplicity of Europeans has for a long time endeavoured to divide; you, who are now consolidated, and make but one family: without doubt, it was necessary that your perfect reconciliation should be sealed with the blood of your butchers. Similar calamities have hung over your proscribed heads; a similar ardour to strike your enemies has signalized you: the like fate is reserved for you, and the like interests must therefore render you forever one, indivisible, and inseparable. Maintain that precious concord, that happy harmony amongst yourselves: it is the pledge of your happiness, your salvation, and your success: it is the secret of being invincible.

It is necessary, in order to strengthen these ties, to recal to your remembrance the catalogue of atrocities committed against our species: the massacre of the entire population of this Island, meditated in the silence and SANG FROID of the cabinet: the execution of that abominable project, to me unblushingly proposed, and already begun by the French, with the calmness and serenity of a countenance accustomed to similar crimes! Gaudaloupe, pillaged and destroyed: its victims still reeking with the blood of the children, women and old men, put to the sword: Pelage (himself the victim of their cruelties) after having basely betrayed his country and his brothers: the brave and immortal Delgrese, blown into the air with the fort which he defended, rather than accept their offered chains: magnanimous warrior! That noble death far from enfeebling our courage, serves only to rouse within us, the determination of avenging or of following thee! Shall I again recal to your memory the plots lately framed at Jeremie: the terrible explosion which was to be the result, notwithstanding the generous pardon granted to these incorrigible beings at the expulsion of the French army: the deplorable fate of our departed brothers in Europe: and (dread harbinger of death!) the frightful despotism exercised at Martinique. Could I but fly to your assistance and break your fetters! Alas! an insurmountable barrier separates us Perhaps a spark from the same fire which inflames us, will alight into your bosom: perhaps at the sound of this commotion, suddenly awakening from your lethargy, with arms in your hands, you will reclaim your sacred and imprescriptible rights.

After the terrible example which I have just given, that sooner or later divine justice will unchain on earth some mighty minds, above the weakness of the vulgar, for the destruction and terror of the wicked; tremble, tyrants, usurpers, scourges of the new world, our daggers are sharpened; your punishment is ready! Sixty thousand men equipped, innured to war, obedient to my orders, burn to offer a new sacrifice to the manes of their assassinated brothers. Let that nation come who may be mad and daring enough to attack me. Already at its approach, the irritated genius of Hayti, rising out of the bosom of the ocean, appears; his menacing aspect, throws the waves into commotion, excites tempests, and with his mighty hand, sweeps ships, or dashes them in pieces; to his formidable voice, the laws of nature pay obedience; diseases, plague, famine, conflagration, poison, are his constant attendants But why calculate on the assistance of the climate and of the elements? Have I forgot that I command a people of no common cast, brought up in adversity, whose audacious daring, frowns at obstacles and increases by dangers? Let them come, then, these homicidal cohorts! I wait for them with firmness, and with a steady eye. I abandoned them freely the sea shore, and places where cities have existed: but woe to those who may approach too near the mountains! It were better for them that the sea received them into its profound abyss, than to be devoured by the anger of the children of Hayti.

"War or Death to Tyrants!" this is my motto; "Liberty! Independence!" this is our rallying cry.

Generals, officers, and soldiers a little unlike him who has preceded me the ex-general Toussaint Louverture, I have been faithful, to the promise which I made to you when I took up arms against Tyranny, and whilst the last spark of life remains in me I shall keep my oath—Never again shall a Colonist or an European set his foot upon this territory with the title of master or proprietor. This resolution shall henceforward form the fundamental basis of our Constitution.

Should other chiefs, after me, by pursuing a conduct diametrically opposite to mine, dig their own graves and those of their species, you will have to accuse only the law of destiny which shall have taken me away from the happiness and welfare of my fellow citizens. May my successors follow the path I shall have traced out for them! It is the system best adopted for consolidating their power; it is the highest homage they can render to my memory.

As it is derogatory to my character and my dignity to punish the innocent for the crimes of the guilty, a handful of whites, commendable by the religion they have always professed, and who have taken the oath to live with us in the woods, have experienced my clemency. I order that the sword respect them, and that they be unmolested.

I recommend anew, and order to all the generals of departments, &c. to grant succours, encouragement, and protection, to all neutral and friendly nations who may wish to establish commercial relations in this Island.

Head Quarters at the Cape, 28th April, 1804.
First year of Independence.

The Governor General,

(Signed) DESSALINES.

A true Copy—the Secretary General.

JUSTE CHANLATTE.

A London paper says, that Lord Hood, by a recent vote of Parliament, on the subject of the Toulon prizes, will receive nearly 50,000l. sterling.

NEW-YORK, MAY 29.

Arrived ship Lydia, Tredwell, Liverpool, 43 days.—April 4, lat. 48, 18, long. 19, 9, was boarded by the French privateer Le Nerver, Captain Quoniman, of Bourdeaux, mounting 18 guns, who took the Captain on board with his papers, and immediately sent another boat on board the ship, which plundered her of 20 guineas belonging to the Captain, and part of his wearing apparel, a spy glass, 1 bbl. corned beef, 2 pigs, 1 cheese, 12 dozen porter, 2 dozen ale, 2 lb. tea, 1 loaf sugar, 1 ham, and 9 bushels of potatoes, for which they would not pay a cent. They also robbed Mr. Bridges (the passenger) and the officers and crew of the most of their clothes. They abused the officers most shamefully, having struck the second mate for only speaking. They put ten English and American prisoners on board us and then sent back the Captain. On his return he strove to prevent their plundering the ship, but was collared by one of the ruffians and another of them presented a pistol to his breast and swore if he made the least resistance he would lodge the contents in his body. Having opened a number of letters, suffered us to proceed after three hours detention. The next day in lat. 74 53, long. 27, 15, was boarded by his Britannic Majesty's ship Isis, Capt. Lobbs, of 64 guns, who by particular request, took 7 of the English prisoners on board, and let us have 400 wt. of bread, for which we paid him. The same day was boarded by the French privateer brig La Venus, Capt. Souffige, of 16 guns, who examined our papers, opened the fore hatch, broke open some letters, let us go after a detention of two hours.

MAY 31.

"We this morning received a letter from Oporto, April 12, of which the following is an extract:—

"I am sorry to inform you of the loss of 40 sail of the West-India fleet. They sailed from Cork on the 24th of March, for the West-Indies, consisting of 71 sail, under convoy of the Apollo, and Carysfort frigates. The Apollo, being a-head of the fleet on the 2d inst. at 4 o'clock in the morning, struck on a sand bank, about a mile from the shore, fifteen leagues south of this port, and 39 sail of the merchantmen also went ashore. About 400 dead bodies were found on the beach. The Apollo had on board 277 men, only 123 of whom were saved. Capt. Dixon, her commander, drowned himself. I have on board my ship a seaman who belonged to the Peggy of Glasgow, who joined the fleet at Cork—he says 14 Glasgow ships joined the fleet, and that 12 of them were lost.

"Yesterday we had advices from Vigo. The Spanish government has positively prohibited the French from carrying in prizes, selling or condemning them in Spanish ports. And that the French have demanded a large sum from the Spanish Government, which they have refused to give."

Ministers in France.—The folly of Mr. Monroe when formerly in France, in promising more to the French than America could or was disposed to perform, was, if our recollection is correct, the principal cause of his recall. This disposition of American Ministers, at that court, to implicate this country in the aspiring policy of the great Republic, is certainly impolitic, and ought to be openly disavowed by our government. Mr. Livingston's Memorial on the subject of Louisiana, breathed a spirit of hostility to England, which nothing but the most pacific disposition could overlook. We are certain that during either of the former administrations, such language as he used on that occasion, would have brought him back to this country in disgrace. But it seems to accord perfectly with Mr. Jefferson's ideas of neutrality, and Mr. Livingston has remained in France to renew his insults on the English government, by uniting with an enraged and violent enemy in criminalizing one of its Agents. If we are not ere long involved in serious difficulty with England, it will not be that our Representatives abroad use any exertions to perpetuate our good understanding. While Mr. Monroe has neglected to renew negotiation on those subjects embraced by certain articles of the British treaty, which have some time expired, Mr. Livingston avails himself of every striking occasion to adopt the language of an open enemy. Is this the way to preserve "peace with all the world?"

JUNE 1.

FOREIGN NEWS.—By the politeness of Captain Collins, of the Brandywine Miller, Greenock papers to the 14th April are received at the office of the *Morning Chronicle*. Their intelligence is not later than already received; but we select from them the following articles.

GREENOCK, April 13.—An overland dispatch from Bombay is received at the India House, dated 31 December. It contains the official account of the affair in Ceylon: and what is of greater importance, General Lake has pushed his successes on the Upper Ganges with much vigour. A battle was fought on the 1st November, at Cawfowly, in which the enemy was totally routed; but we are sorry to find with the loss of several valiant officers and brave soldiers on our part. The regiments in India being chiefly Scotch, many persons in this country will have to regret the fall of friends. But the most important part of the dispatch is the advice of an armistice being concluded between general Welleley and Scindia; the particulars of which as well as those of the other events, have not yet been published. It seems likely that the Mahrattas would be swayed in this truce by the progress of gen. Lake; and we are thus happily relieved from all anxiety respecting gen. Welleley. We confess, we thought the war on the Upper Ganges at an end after the first action; and that it was not so, appears to have been owing to the dependence of those forces on Scindia's co-operation.

GALLANT EXPLOIT.—On Thursday week, Messrs. Canneys, masters of the ships Susan and Abeona, of Sunderland, homeward bound from Plymouth, agreed to keep company for mutual defence. They set sail, and proceeded along the coast till, on the following day, at three P. M. off Hailings, a privateer, carrying English colours, came up with the Susan, and summoned her to heave the main-yard aback; but Mr. Canney very dexterously turned the vessel's head for the land, and fired his stern chasers into him; on which he immediately hauled his wind, and bore down upon the other. The Susan then tacked, and lay too, firing several shot after the privateer. The other vessel also kept firing upon her; notwithstanding which, the priva-