

LONDON, MAY 5.

SIR J. T. DUCKWORTH'S NEGOCIATION AND CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PORTE.

NOTE 1.—This is dated February 20, on board the Admiral's ship in the Dardanelles, and begins with a statement of the causes which have induced the British Court to order the entrance of the British fleet into the Dardanelles. It proceeds to demand an answer to the terms which are mentioned as having been previously presented to their consideration. It then concludes as follows:—

"In case this answer should arrive to-morrow before sunset, and that it contains sufficient and unequivocal assurances that the just and moderate demands of his Britannic Majesty are granted, all hostile demonstrations on the part of the British fleet shall immediately cease. But if the answer shall be dictated upon other principles, the undersigned will have to declare with regret, that his mission is terminated, and that the British Admiral will conform himself to the orders which his Government has entrusted him with the execution of in the event of a war.

(Signed)

"C. ARBUTHNOT."

NOTE 2. Is dated on the following day, February 21, on board the Admiral's ship in the Dardanelles. It is from Admiral Duckworth, and commences with a complaint that the Castles of the Dardanelles had fired on him upon his passage through the Straights, though by an existing Treaty he had a full right to pass them. The Note then proceeds to menace the Porte in the event of the continuance of this hostile disposition, and concludes as follows:—

"To avoid so fatal a catastrophe, the following is the condition he proposes:—The Sublime Porte shall deliver up its ships and vessels of war, with means sufficient for their equipment; and the Vice-Admiral will, in this case, engage not to molest the city, but to withdraw immediately beyond the Dardanelles."

"The Vice-Admiral grants the Sublime Porte half an hour after the translation of this note into the Turkish language, to determine upon this proposal, protesting that if he is reduced to the disagreeable necessity of seizing the Turkish ships of war by force, and to commence the work of destruction which he has the means to accomplish, it will be the fault of the Sublime Porte, and not that of the King his master. On board the Royal George, off Prince's Island, February 21.

(Signed)

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

No. III.

"On board His Majesty's Ship the Royal George, near Prince's Island, Feb. 21.

"SIR, the First Dragoman.—This morning at day break, we sent a flag of truce with a note, on my part, to the Reis Effendi, but the officer was not permitted to land. I now send the note a second time, to make another effort, in order that it may arrive at its destination. The object of this note is to demand whether the Sublime Porte will be the Ally of France, or that of Great Britain and Russia."

"As the Admiral must act in a hostile manner against Constantinople, in case the choice of the Sublime Porte should not incline to our interest, but to that of France, he has also sent a note, the substance of which is, that he will spare the capital, if the Turkish ships of war and the naval stores are delivered up to him. The answer to the Admiral's note must be delivered within half an hour. The Sublime Porte must be responsible for the consequences. I have the honor to be, Sir, the First Dragoman, your's, &c.

"C. ARBUTHNOT."

No. IV.

"As it has been discovered by our glasses that the time granted the Sublime Porte to take its decision, is employed in warping the ships of war into places more susceptible of defence, and in constructing batteries along the coast, it is the duty of the Vice-Admiral to loose no time. Consequently, Mr. Arbuthnot is obliged to apprise M. Isac Bey, that if these measures of defence do not immediately cease, the British ships of war will act in the manner which shall be judged most convenient to the interest they would wish to defend. On board the Royal George at midnight, between the 21st and 22d of February."

No. V.

"On board the Royal George, February 23.

"SIR,—The Ambassador was yesterday unwell; to-day he is so ill that he cannot quit his bed, and is utterly incapable of attending to business. I have consequently opened the letter which you have addressed to him, and confess to you, that its contents are of such a nature as to offend me. To tell a Minister of Great-Britain, and a British Officer, that the negotiation they have opened is nothing but a scheme to gain time, is a thing that we are not accustomed to hear, and which, from our national character, we did not expect to hear. One English frigate only has been left in the Dardanelles to collect the boats that were employed upon the coast when we were attacked in a hostile manner. I have every reason to believe that this frigate will remain where she is till she receives my ulterior orders, but when she joins me, or even when my Squadron shall be joined by all our naval force, even that shall not occasion any alteration in the terms I have proposed, and by which I am bound in honour rigorously to abide. Besides, we have no occasion for any reinforcements, for the vessels you see before you, have been sufficient to effect that without any damage, which had been regarded by every person here, as completely impracticable.

"I declare to you still once again, both in my own name and that of the Ambassador, and I declare it to you upon my honour, that we wish for peace, though we are prepared for war. The Sublime Porte is acquainted with the condition upon which it may preserve the amity of our Sovereign, and if you immediately accede to them, the negotiation may be terminated in a satisfactory manner, in half an hour. But I must tell you frankly, I will not consent to lose any more time. I owe it to my Sovereign and to my own honour, not to suffer myself to be duped, and those who are capable of thinking so meanly of others, justly become themselves the objects of suspicion.

"You are putting your ships of war in motion; you

take every method for increasing the means of defence; but if the Sublime Porte really wishes to save its capital from the dreadful calamities which are ready to burst upon it, the thought of which is shocking to our feelings of humanity, you will be sent here early to-morrow morning, with full powers to conclude with me the work of peace, which Mr. Arbuthnot would have, by this time, set out to conclude on shore, if he had not been prevented by a very severe indisposition. I now declare to you, for the last time, that no consideration whatever, shall induce me to remain at a distance from your capital a single moment beyond the period I have now assigned; and you are sufficiently acquainted with the English character, not to be ignorant, that in case of unavoidable necessity, we are left disposed to threaten than to execute. But, understand me well. Our object is peace and amity; this depends on you. I therefore earnestly intreat you not to suffer yourselves to be led into an error by the insinuations of those persons whose interest it is to excite false alarms, and tumults which are the consequences of them.

"As soon as harmony shall be re-established between us, you may rest upon the assistance of the forces under my orders, for the support of the government of his Imperial Highness, and the protection of his capital.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

No. VI.

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 24.

"SIR,—I have this morning had the honour of receiving your letter of this morning, in which it is stated that the Porte is inclined to enter into an immediate negotiation, for the purpose of concluding a definitive arrangement; and it is proposed that we on our part, should appoint a Plenipotentiary to meet the person chosen on the part of the Sublime Porte.

"Considering the very great importance of this affair, not only as it regards the Sublime Porte and Great-Britain, but the whole world, I have come to the resolution of personally conducting it; and I therefore propose to the Sublime Porte, that in order to obviate any difficulty or inconvenience, a Minister be immediately sent on its part, either on board the English frigate actually at anchor before Constantinople, to which I shall repair myself, or on board my own vessel the Royal George, if that appears more proper. In case this arrangement should not meet the ideas of the Sublime Porte, I propose that the conference should take place in any of the Prince's Islands you shall think proper.

"It is of the utmost importance I should receive an immediate answer. I have also to request that one of the vessels belonging to the arsenal (a sandal) should be ordered to remain near me, with some confidential persons, for the purpose of corresponding whenever it may be necessary.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

No. VII.

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 24.

"SIR,—Your letter, dated yesterday at sun-set, arrived here at midnight, and, as well as the preceding one, was opened by me on account of the indisposition of the Ambassador.

"In reply, I have not a syllable to add to the letter which I addressed to you, on receiving your first, except that we are still ready to negotiate upon the conditions proposed in the Note transmitted to you by the Ambassador and myself, on the evening of the 22d of this month.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

No. VIII.

"Vice-Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth, being a constant witness of the preparations which are uninterruptedly pursued, of the works which are continued on the same batteries, of the designs manifested to establish new batteries established on the side of Scutaria, and of the battle among the ships of war, infills upon being informed without the least delay, if there be an inclination really to negotiate, or if it be meant to impose upon him. If the latter be intended, he gives the Sublime Porte warning that it will not succeed. He laments the dreadful consequences which are likely to result from it, but he can at least declare before God and man—that it will not be his fault. His measures are taken, and he only does his duty. If a satisfactory answer be not received within three hours, commencing from 8 o'clock, according to the computation of the Franks, he will begin by seizing all boats and vessels, freighted with provisions for the capital, and will put an end to the navigation of the sea of Marmora.

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 24, at five o'clock in the evening."

No. IX.

Sir John Thomas Duckworth, Knight of the most noble Order of the Bath, and Vice-Admiral of the White, has received and opened the letters of this date, which have been addressed to the British Ambassador and himself by his Excellency the Reis Effendi, and by the Dragoman of the Divan.

"It would not be proper for Sir John Thomas Duckworth, as Commander in Chief, to repair to a place so distant from his fleet, as that mentioned by the Sublime Porte. Rear Admiral Louis, who is already so well known to the Sublime Porte, will therefore be ready to meet the Ottoman Plenipotentiary when the Sandal of the Arsenal shall be sent to accompany him to the place of conference, and will be vested with full powers to negotiate, and conclude the work of peace, which is, and always has been, the object which his Majesty has had most sincerely at heart.

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 25, 1807."

NOTE X. Complaints of the seizure of a boat of four English Seamen, pending the Negotiation. It is dated 25th February.

NOTE XI.

To his Excellency the Illustrious Minister Mehemed Gailib, Reis Effendi.

"Having determined, according to the orders contained in my instructions, to make an alteration in the position of the Squadron under my orders, I think it necessary to ap-

prise your Excellency, that I shall advance a little more towards the North, keeping, however, beyond the range of cannon shot, and without the least intention to commence hostilities, until every means of conciliation have been ineffectually tried." But from the disposition manifested by the Sublime Porte, I flatter myself that every thing will be amicably concluded.

"Sir Thomas Louis will be ready to go on board the Sandal at an early hour to-morrow.—I have the honour to be, &c. (Signed) "J. T. DUCKWORTH."

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 25."

No. XII.

To his Excellency the Illustrious Minister Mehemed Gailib, Reis Effendi.

"We wait with the greatest impatience the arrival of the Sandal, which is to convey the British Plenipotentiary to the place of conference. We cannot understand these repeated delays, and cannot really consent to them. My five sailors have not been sent back; they must be immediately returned to the frigate.—I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 26."

NOTE XIII. Is dated Feb. 26.—It merely complains of the treatment of Mr. Daniell, an English Commissary, in the power of the Turks.

No. XIV.

"Vice-Admiral J. T. Duckworth sends back the Sublime Porte two men, whom the boats of his Squadron have taken; and has the honour to acquaint it, that he has nine more in his possession, who will be also sent back, when the Midshipman and the four sailors, taken under the flag of truce, shall be returned to their frigate.

"The Vice-Admiral assures the Sublime Porte of his high consideration.

(Signed)

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 27."

No. XV.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth cannot sufficiently express his astonishment respecting the conduct pursued by the Sublime Porte, in persisting to detain the Midshipman and sailors belonging to the frigate, under a flag of truce, after the repeated applications of the Vice-Admiral to the Ottoman Government for their release, and at the very moment that the Sublime Porte declared in its *projet* that peace still existed between the two Countries.

"The Vice-Admiral is so much the more particularly struck by this very extraordinary proceeding, because it forms so marked a contrast to the conduct pursued by the British Squadron in passing the Dardanelles; where, notwithstanding the aggression was so plainly on the part of the subjects of his Imperial Highness the Sultan, not one of them was treated otherwise than with the greatest kindness, and who was not instantly set at liberty.

"The Vice-Admiral still relies on the justice of the Sublime Porte, and is persuaded that these five subjects of his Sovereign will be sent back without the least delay.

"The Sublime Porte must be aware, that in detaining persons as prisoners who were under a flag of truce, it will expose itself to the most severe censure of the whole world, by so gross a violation of the customs of civilized Powers. But the Vice-Admiral has not the least doubt, that in consequence of this explanation, the five men alluded to will be instantly liberated.—The Vice-Admiral has the honour to be, &c.

(Signed)

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 26."

No. XVI.

"The English Ambassador, not being certain that there will be any other opportunity of sending on shore, takes the liberty of recommending the inclosed to his Excellency the Reis Effendi, with a request that he will have the goodness to transmit it to Baron de Hubich.

"The Ambassador assures his Excellency the letter treats only of private matters; but his Excellency is at liberty, if he thinks it necessary, to open it, and see what it contains."

"The Ambassador assures the Reis Effendi of his high consideration.

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 27."

No. XVII.

"Vice-Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth, to give a further and much more convincing proof of his repugnance to do injury to private persons, has determined to send back to the Sublime Porte, and consequently to release all those of its subjects which he took yesterday in the act of committing hostilities against him. When the Sublime Porte shall reflect upon this generous conduct, it will be hardly necessary to invite it to compare it with that which has been holden with respect to the five Englishmen taken under a flag of truce. Every motive of humanity and justice, in short, every motive of common sense, should induce the Sublime Porte not to hesitate to follow the example, which, in far different circumstances, has been followed by the Vice-Admiral; and, consequently, he will not allow himself to entertain the least doubt, that the men belonging to his Squadron, who have been so improperly detained, will on this occasion at least, be immediately returned to their frigate.

"In expectation of this act of justice, the Vice-Admiral has the honour to assure the Sublime Porte of his most distinguished consideration.

(Signed)

"J. T. DUCKWORTH."

"On board the Royal George, Feb. 28."

MAY 15.

Hamburg papers to the 6th, and Dutch to the 12th, arrived in town last night. Although their details are interesting, yet they are totally silent on the main object of our anxiety—the great battle which was anticipated to be on the eve of taking place. Bonaparte seems at this moment more willing to emulate the policy of Machiavel than the prowess of Alexander; and to place greater reliance on Flattery than Force.

If report is at all to be credited, Austria has lately shewn some symptoms of being influenced by French intrigue.—Mr. Stewart whose arrival from the court of Petersburg we mentioned in our yesterday's paper, is said to be charged with proposals submitted by Napoleon to the allies, and