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## PRUSSIAN MANIFESTO.

We this day lay before the public a translation of the King of Prussia's Manifesto. This important document was issued at the head-quarters at Erfurt, on the 9th inst. and was published in the *Hamburgh Correspondent* of the 15th and 17th instant.

It is clear, from this very interesting State Paper, that the Prussian ultimatum once rejected, no arbitrament but that of the sword, could decide the numerous and increasing grounds of difference which subsisted between Prussia and France. From the tenor of the Manifesto, we are persuaded that his Prussian Majesty has determined to endure the last extremity rather than submit to the unceasing insults and encroachments of France. All these, as well as the forbearance and partiality of Prussia towards France, are enumerated with a minuteness, and accompanied with that tone of observation which demonstrates that the former considers himself as treated with the most atrocious injustice and the blackest ingratitude.

We should not be surprised to see the war between Prussia and France assume something of a personal, and particularly acrimonious, character. There are some passages in the Manifesto which Bonaparte must feel strongly. The murder of the Duke d'Enghien; the kidnapping of Sir G. Rumbold; the robberies committed under the name of loans, upon the Hanse Towns; the suggestion of what he might have done for the happiness of France, and the peace of Europe; and the little hopes of future tranquillity, which are to be expected from his restless and unbounded ambition, are all calculated to gall and irritate the irascible disposition of Bonaparte. The illusion to the first circumstance, in particular, contains in it grounds enough for a war of extermination. The Usurper will never forgive the reference to that foul and atrocious midnight murder.

In point of arrangement and composition, this Manifesto is not excelled by any document of a similar nature in modern diplomacy. It is, beyond doubt, the most forcible appeal against the dangers of French ambition which has yet appeared. The facts stated in it are undeniable—uncontroversial. There is not a State in Europe which cannot bear testimony to them; there is scarcely one in which their effects are not felt. We shall be much disappointed if it does not produce, and particularly in the empire, a very great sensation indeed.

## MANIFESTO.

As His Majesty the KING of PRUSSIA has taken up arms for the defence of his people, he thinks it necessary to lay before them, and all Europe, the circumstances which have imposed this duty on His Majesty.

The politics of France have been the scourge of humanity during the last fifteen years. Those men who, in rapid succession, have been at the head of affairs in that country, have only sought the means of their dominion in war, and the guarantee of their existence in the wretchedness of the people, may be viewed without astonishment. But the introduction of a regular government, to which the same necessity could not be imputed, gave new life to the hopes of the friends of peace. Napoleon, invested with the supreme power, victorious, surrounded by weaker States, friendly disposed governments, or conquered or exhausted rivals, had it in his power to perform a better part. For the greatness of France, nothing more remained for him to do; for her happiness, every thing was in his power.

It is painful to be compelled to say, that French politics still remained the same. An insatiable ambition was still the ruling passion of France. She made use of arms and of treaties with the same view. The peace of Amiens was scarcely concluded, before the signal for the first acts of violence followed. Holland and Switzerland, two independent States, were compelled to accept a constitution, which converted them into French Provinces. The renewal of war was the consequence.

Peace, however, still continued upon the Continent.—The German empire had purchased peace by incalculable sacrifices. In the midst of this peace, nevertheless, the French troops invaded the Electorate of Hanover; a country which had no concern in the war between France and England, while the ports of Germany were shut against the British flag; and the better to effect her object, France took possession of Cuxhaven, and the territory of a free State, which was still more a stranger to the war than Hanover.

In the midst of this peace also, the same troops, a few months after, violated the German territory in such a manner as to wound the honour of the nation still deeper. The Germans have never avenged the death of the Duke d'Enghien; but the remembrance of that event will never be extinguished among them.

The treaty of Luneville guaranteed the independence of the Italian Republic. In spite of the most positive assurances, did Napoleon place the Iron Crown of Italy upon his own head. Genoa was incorporated with France.—Lucca was very near sharing the same fate. Only a few months before had the Emperor, on a solemn occasion—an occasion which imposed very important duties upon him—declared before his people, and before all Europe, that he wished not to extend the limits of his territory. Besides, France was bound, by a treaty with Russia, to put the king of Sardinia in possession of indemnities in Italy. Instead of

fulfilling that obligation, she made herself mistress of every object which could have been serviceable towards that indemnification.

Portugal wished to maintain her neutrality, but Portugal was compelled to purchase by gold the deceitful security of a few moments.

The Porte, who had not forgotten the invasion of Syria and Egypt, was the only power remaining in Europe which had not been subjected to the arbitrary proceedings of France.

But to these acts of violence, a system of abuse and injury remained still to be added. A Journal, which proclaimed itself the voice of Government, was chosen as a chronicle of the attacks incessantly made upon every crowned head.

Prussia could be no stranger to any of these general acts of oppression. Many of them were nearly connected with her substantial interests; especially as the wisdom of that system which considers the States of Europe as members of the same family, calls upon each of them for the defence of all; and that the unbounded aggrandizement of one State exposed the rest to danger, was sufficiently manifest to experience.

Still it is most essentially necessary to represent in what manner the conduct of France was calculated to operate in its immediate relations to Prussia.

It were superfluous to enumerate all the good offices rendered to Napoleon by Prussia. Prussia was the first Power that acknowledged him. No promises, no menaces had been able to shake the King's neutrality. Every thing that the duty of a good neighbour could prescribe, was most amply afforded during a period of six years. Prussia esteemed a valiant nation, which also had learned, on its part, to respect Prussia both in war and peace; and she did justice to the genius of its Chief. But the remembrance of these times is no longer retained by Napoleon.

Prussia had permitted the territory of Hanover to be invaded: In this she had countenanced an act of injustice; therefore was it her first view to remedy it. She offered herself for it instead of England, under the condition that the latter should cede it. It must however, at least be recollected, that this a boundary was prescribed to France, which she should not pass. Napoleon solemnly pledged himself not to compromise the neutrality of the Northern States; to exercise no violence towards any of them; and, in particular, not to increase the number of troops in the electorate of Hanover.

Scarcely had he agreed to these stipulations than, he broke them. Every one is acquainted with the violent manner in which Sir George Rumbold was seized; every one knows that the Hanse Towns were laid under contribution, under the appellation of loans, not, by any means for their interest, but exactly in the same manner as if France had been at war with them. For the first of these injuries, His Majesty contented himself with accepting an inadequate satisfaction. Of the second he took no cognizance, being prevented by the apprehensions, and representations on the part of the Hanse Towns. His Majesty, on his part, did not scruple to make an sacrifice, as the preservation of peace was the dearest wish of his heart.

The patience and sufferance of every other Court, were exhausted sooner than that of His Majesty. War again broke out on the Continent—the situation of the King, with respect to his duty, was more difficult than ever. In order to prevent France from augmenting her troops in Hanover, he had promised to suffer no attack to be made on that territory. The Russians and the Swedes were preparing an attack upon the French. From this period, the whole burden of the contract between France and Prussia weighed upon the latter only; without producing to her the least advantage; and by a single concatenation of circumstances, it seemed that Prussia, who only wished to remain impartial and neutral, could no longer pursue her former system, except to the prejudice of the Allied powers. Every advantage which resulted from this situation of affairs was on the side of France; and the King was daily threatened with a collision, not less formidable to him, than decisively favourable to the plans of Napoleon.

Who could have thought that the very moment when the King had given to the French government the strongest proof of his determination, and a singular example of the faithful fulfilment of engagements into which he had once entered, should be chosen by Napoleon to do the King the most sensible injury? Who does not remember the violation of the territory of Anspach, which took place on the 9th of October in the last year, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the provincial administration, and of his Majesty's minister?

This contract between that moderation which pardons every thing—that integrity which remains true to its engagements to the last on the one part; and the abuse of power, the insolence inspired by deceitful fortune, and the habit of only reckoning on this fortune, on the other, continued several years. The King declared to the French government that he considered all his connections with it as dissolved. He placed his armies on a footing suitable to circumstances. He was now fully convinced, that no pledge of security remained for the neighbours of France, but a peace established upon firm principles, and guaranteed by all the Powers in common.

His Majesty offered the Allies to be the mediator in negotiations for such a peace, and to support them with all

his force. It is sufficient to know the conditions then proposed, to be convinced of the moderation which at all times, has governed the politics of his Majesty in their whole extent. Prussia, at this moment, listened not to the voice of revenge; she passed over the events of the late war, however violent they might have been, since they had been sanctioned by existing treaties. She required nothing but the punctual fulfilment of those treaties; but this she required without limitation. Count Haugwitz repaired to Vienna, where the French Emperor then was. Scarcely had this Minister been there a few days, when the whole face of affairs was changed; the misfortunes experienced by the Court of Vienna had compelled it to sign an armistice, which was immediately followed by a peace. The Emperor of Russia sacrificed his views to the wish of his ally, and his troops returned home. Prussia stood now alone on the field of contest. His Majesty was obliged to limit his policy by his powers; and instead as has been his wish, of embracing the interest of all Europe, make his own security and that of his neighbours, his first object.

[The Manifesto then proceeds to recite at length the conduct of Bonaparte with respect to Cleves, Wesel, Hanover, &c.]

It was no longer doubtful that Napoleon had determined to overwhelm Prussia with war, or to render her forever incapable of war, since it was evident he was leading her from humiliation to humiliation, till she should be reduced to such a state of political degradation and feebleness, that she could have no other will than that of her formidable neighbour.

The last doubt at length disappeared; troops marched from the interior of France towards the Rhine. The intent to attack Prussia was clear and certain. The King ordered a Note to be transmitted by Gen. Knoblesdorf, containing the conditions on which he was ready to come to an accommodation. These conditions were:

1. That the French troops should immediately evacuate Germany;

2. That France should oppose no obstacle to the formation of the Northern Confederacy; and that this Confederacy might embrace all the larger and smaller States not included in the fundamental Act of the Confederation of the Rhine.

3. That a Negotiation should immediately be commenced for the adjustment of all objects in dispute; a preliminary article of which should be, the restoration of three Abbays, and the separation of the town of Wesel from the French Empire.

These conditions speak for themselves: they shew how moderate the King has been in his demands, even at this moment, and how much the maintenance of peace, if France wishes peace, depends upon herself.

The term peremptorily fixed by the King, for the decision of peace or war has elapsed. His Majesty has not received the answer of the Cabinet of St. Cloud; or rather, the preparations made around him, daily give that answer. The King can henceforth confide the safety and honour of his crown only to arms. He leads to honourable combat an army worthy its former glory. He reigns over a people of whom he may be proud; and while he is ready to shed his blood for them, he knows what he may expect from energy and affection. Princes, the honour of the German name, have joined their banners with his, and a Sovereign who honours with his virtues one of the finest Thrones in the world, is penetrated with justice of his cause. His arms are blessed by the voice of his people. With so many motives to be conscious of his strength, Prussia may be permitted continually to confide in her high destiny.

The French Emperor proposed to Count Haugwitz a treaty in which was stipulated, on the one side a mutual guarantee of possessions, the inviolability of the Turkish territory, and the result of the peace of Presburg; and, on the other, the taking possession of Hanover by Prussia, in return for the cession of three provinces.

The first part of the Treaty promised, at least for the future, and acknowledged, guaranteed, and if Napoleon had so pleased, a firm, political Constitution. The result of the peace of Presburg was a general misfortune for Europe; but Prussia sacrificed herself alone when she accepted them; and to place a limit to the incessant usurpations of France, should the Treaty be considered by the Court of St. Cloud as any thing more than words, appeared an advantage: the King, therefore, ratified this article unconditionally.

The second half of the Treaty of Vienna related to an object, the importance of which had been manifested by serious experience. Prussia could not rely on security for a moment, so long as Hanover remained involved in a war, in which the country had, in fact no concern. At whatever price it may be purchased, Prussia was resolved that the French should not return thither. She had her choice to obtain this end, either by a treaty or a war. The cession of three provinces, which had been faithful and happy for a long series of years, was a sacrifice not to be made for the plan of vain ambition; but these provinces, in case of a war, would have been the first sufferers; all the calamities of that war would have pressed upon the Monarchy; while the acquisition of Hanover, could it have been made under less unhappy circumstances, would have been productive of the most valuable advantages to Prussia. The King, therefore, conceived that he reconciled his wishes