

From an English Print.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

THE Continent of Europe exhibits just such a scene as might be expected to result from the predominating influence of French despotism, in every country, if not, in every cabinet, with the solitary exception of Portugal. The natural consequence of the success of French principles; the dissolution of every tie which, for centuries, had connected the different states of Europe; the destruction of all institutions and all boundaries which reason and prejudice, time and interest had combined to consecrate; the removal of every barrier which divided justice from injustice; religion from infidelity; integrity from villainy; and virtue from vice; display the strong characteristics of triumphant Jacobinism; which the degraded Sovereigns, looking down from their tottering thrones, either with stupefied confidence, resulting from incorrigible imbecility of mind, or dreadful corruption of heart; or else with dastardly fear, the effect of weak, and therefore successful efforts; widen the banks, in order to facilitate the progress of that destructive torrent; which they want either the wish or courage to stem. In short, the evil genius of the Gallic-Republic, founded on rebellion and regicide, and nurtured with blood and plunder, assassination and robbery, has prevailed, and her sanguinary banners not merely unmolested but encouraged to roave from one extremity of the European Continent to the other.

Obedient to the mandate of his tyrant, the fallen monarch of Spain, hugging his chains, and embracing the murderers of his family, has proclaimed war against his neighbours and quondam allies the Portuguese, who incurred the enmity of the French Republic by their faithful adherence to their treaties with the Spanish Monarchy; for it was in compliance with the provisions of those treaties, and merely to support the Spaniards against the attacks of their enemies, that they engaged in the war with France! What must be the feelings of the King of Spain, when he reflects in secret on this monstrous act of perfidy and ingratitude, which his base subservience to the will of the Corsican Usurper has led him to commit! To return friendship with enmity, protection with hostility, indicates an extraordinary degree either of human depravity or human degradation. Weak and infatuated prince, not to perceive, that his compliance with this insidious proposition, which with its object and consequences we long since predicted, is an act of suicide. His own destruction must speedily follow the ruin of his enemy. If he flatters himself that he shall avert this destruction by additional concessions, he will soon be convinced of his error. He may suppose, that, in return for the cession of his colonial possessions, Florida and New-Orleans, which we have good reason to believe was the object of the treaty privately concluded with Berthier last summer, the Consul may fulfil his promise by employing an army on a Quixotic expedition against the fortress of Gibraltar, that stumbling-block of French and Spanish pride! But he will find to his cost, that the intention of Bonaparte is to employ his troops in a more easy and more profitable enterprise.

The sovereign of Prussia seems anxious to dispute with the French the palm of excellence, in the successful use of the new revolutionary casuistry, and the new system of revolutionary ethics. We have formerly shewn in what manner this Prince has reduced to practice his principles of neutrality, by his seizure of neutral towns, and his occupation of neutral territories; and if any faith be due to the letters which we have lately received from Berlin, from a correspondent who has never yet deceived us, he means to give to the world a still fuller exposition of these principles, by the invasion of Hanover, the reduction of Hamburgh, and the provisional occupation of Bremen, Lubek, and Frankfort: so rendering the gratification of his favourite passions, avarice and ambition, subservient to the favourite, but hopeless project of his worthy ally Bonaparte, the exclusion of Britons and British manufactures from the ports and countries of the Continent. A notable specimen of the revolutionary casuistry of this Prince may be seen in the curious correspondence of his Minister,

Haugwitz, with the British Ambassador, Lord Carysfort; in which he modestly terms the embargo imposed on Danish and Swedish vessels, after an act of professed hostility to this country by those powers, a violation of the rights of neutral states, and a full justification of his resentment against us, while he not only passes *sub silentio* the flagrant breach of a solemn treaty by the Emperor of Russia, by the seizure of our ships, the imprisonment of our countrymen, and the plunder of our property, in direct violation of every principle of public law, as well as of the specific provision of a particular treaty, but, immediately after the commission of this act, which cannot even be palliated by the imputation of any previous insult, slight, or provocation whatever; an act, therefore, which must extort the reprobation of every honest mind, contracts a closer alliance with the Emperor, and scruples not to join with him in a league which has for its main object to sanction and support the unprincipled conduct of which he has been guilty! We forbear to characterize such a proceeding; and our limits will not allow us to enter into a detail of the particulars which we have received respecting the internal state of Prussia, and the paltry intrigues of the Prussian Cabinet, both of which are highly favourable to the revolutionary designs of the grand reformer of Europe.

By the same obstacle we are also prevented from giving a description of the internal situation of the French Republic, respecting which we have likewise received from our correspondent, some interesting particulars. A short extract or two, from the letters before us, are all that we have now room to insert.

"So long as the breakers of the laws are the makers of the laws, anarchy and despotism must continue to reign by turns, and such are the laws now in existence in France that a corrupt judge need never wait a sufficient plea for the acquittal of a favoured criminal, from the petty thief to the bloody assassin. The civil laws are neither less numerous nor less contradictory than the criminal laws, so that the property of the people is not better protected nor more secure than their lives. You must have seen, no doubt, from the reports of the Minister of Police, that there is not a province which has not its regular band of robbers and assassins, and that, in some, the Judges and the Justices of the Peace are at the head of them; but that Minister has not deemed it expedient to proclaim to the world, a fact equally notorious, viz. that the Revolution has so accustomed and encouraged the people of France to the commission of crimes, that any man who has an enemy that he wishes to get rid of may easily procure a hundred assassins to dispatch him; and that the known ingenuity of the French, in all their undertakings, whether good or bad, has enabled them to contrive such means of plunder and murder, as would, mostly, I believe, elude even the vigilance of an English Judge, and as, by enhancing the difficulty of obtaining proof, secure impunity to the culprits.—A valet-de-place, who lived with me several months, and whom I knew to be a spy to the Police, shewed me a boy, twelve years old, at Paris, who had poisoned seven Gens d'Armes, and killed three other men, besides a Justice of Peace, who had committed a friend of his Employers to prison. This boy had been tried in four different courts, and acquitted, from a defect of proof. He has since been sent, by the Minister of the Police, on board the Brest fleet! A well known revolutionary hero in the Western department, being left without employment, and harassed by his creditors, appointed them to meet him at a house which he had in a retired part of the country; among the creditors were two rich cousins to whom he was heir. He had undermined the house previous to their arrival, and they were all blown up to the number of twenty-two. He had the assurance to inform the Government that he had destroyed two and twenty Chouans; and in August last, the fact was so stated in all the French papers. But the truth has since been discovered; and the man has been apprehended, tried, and acquitted, by dividing his cousins property with the Judge!!! Though Fauche has more power and greater means than were ever possessed by any Minister of Police under the Monarchy, he cannot prevent the commission of crimes. He contrives, however, to make them a source of profit to himself; he is known to derive a

revenue of 100,000 crowns (about 12,500l. sterl.) by licensing gaming-houses and brothels"—the remaining part of this sentence is too horrid to transcribe; suffice it to say, that it exhibits an instance of depravity till now unexampled in Europe!—"There is a regular farmer-general for the brothels and gaming-houses, who pays Fauche, and lets them out to under-farmers, who pay him; and the cards of address for these houses of resort, for the vicious and the profligate, are as openly distributed at Paris, as the bills of your quacks are in London. I send you one of them which was put into my hand at the door of the Opera." "The consequence of this state of things is an almost incredible number of suicides. I heard a senator, a friend of Fauche's declare, that from the registers of the Police, it appeared, that more people destroy themselves now in one decade, than formerly in a whole year."—"Add to this the great scarcity of money which bears an interest of from eighteen to thirty per cent.—Whatever the friends of the Consul, the intriguers and speculators of the day may assert, be assured that money is as scarce as ever; and the confidence of men of property, no greater than before." We lament the insufficiency of our limits for the admission of farther extracts; but we shall take a future opportunity of recurring to this subject, which is almost inexhaustible.

The sovereign of Naples, forced, in spite of himself, into the revolutionary vortex, and abandoned by his Continental Allies, has been compelled to submit to his fate, and reluctantly to subscribe to the disgraceful terms which the successful Usurper of France has been pleased to prescribe to him. The exclusion of British vessels from the Neapolitan and Sicilian ports, forms a leading article of the preliminary treaty—but the possession of Malta by the British will defeat the malice of Bonaparte, and secure to us the free navigation of the Mediterranean.

At home we have only to notice the completion of the new Ministerial arrangements, and the indecorous and unjust reflections which have been cast on the members of the Administration. We are not versed in the language of flattery, nor yet disposed to employ it; but, with the single exceptions of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Windham, we defy the most strenuous partisans of the old Ministry, to select, from among its members, any whose abilities will stand a comparison with those of the present Premier and several of his colleagues. But the soundness and purity of their principles, and the strength of their attachment to their Sovereign and the constitution of their country, give them a much stronger claim to public esteem, support, and confidence, than any which can result from splendour of talents, or the powers of eloquence, however brilliant or extensive. At all events pre-judication is the height of injustice. They have an arduous task to fulfill; the times are critical; and the state of the country calls for great exertions of vigilance and vigour. The Jacobin societies are again in motion; encouraged by the expiration of those salutary laws which have so long confined their treasonable efforts, within a very limited and contracted sphere of action; they have again met, and propose, under a new title, once more to display their banners in the field, and try an appeal to those feelings of the people, which, at this crisis, are the most susceptible, to endeavour to inflame their minds, and to incite them to acts of rebellion;—or, to use the more eloquent language of a leading member of the Whig Club, their efforts will be directed "to rouse the dormant energies of an infatuated people." At such a time any attempt to weaken the public confidence in those whom his Majesty has chosen for his Ministers, putting the indecency and injustice of it entirely out of the question, is particularly improper and dangerous. Let them be tried by their actions, which we have no doubt will fully justify the high character which they bear: and let all who value their country combine to strengthen those hands which, at a season of alarm and danger, are nobly stretched out to save and to support her.

On the policy of this country respecting foreign powers, we have no room to expiate; we shall only state the firm conviction of our mind; that every effort should be made for the recovery of Egypt, and the security of the Bra-

zils. These are objects of primary importance.

LONDON, April 23.

We request the attention of our Readers to the following Remarks—they are from a Correspondent of general information:—"We ought certainly to make use of the providential and important occurrences which have lately taken place, to try the disposition of our enemies, with respect to PEACE. Nothing can so much tend to facilitate the attainment of that desirable object as the dissolution of the Northern Confederacy, which the death of the Emperor Paul, and the victory at Copenhagen, must very shortly effect. We shall soon see the King of Prussia withdraw from that Confederacy, advancing some plausible pretext for the part he has taken—and Sweden, already indisposed to the contest, cannot find it her interest to continue it.—We think therefore that in the course of the last ten days, the great obstacle to Pacification has been removed, and we are convinced that our Ministers, sincerely endeavouring to attain this desirable end, will be as moderate in proposing conditions, in the hour of victory, as they would have been firm and undaunted, if, instead of obtaining victory, they had experienced defeat. They will not, however, we are sure, be so anxious and eager in their pursuit of Peace, as to accept humiliating terms, or such as can be said, in any degree, to impair the security or to tarnish the honor of the country.

It is impossible to consider our present situation, without feeling the merits of those who lately administered our Affairs. No man ever more nobly upheld the character and dignity of the nation.—We cannot give a more striking Proof of the truth of the remark, than by reminding our Readers of the circumstances under which they entered into the war with the Northern Confederacy. At the moment when the power which joined that confederacy thought that our strength was materially impaired, and our resources nearly exhausted, they avowed openly, their intention of asserting a right, which they had at the beginning of the contest, only secretly countenanced. Timid men, conducting our affairs, would under such circumstances, have given up the pretended right—temporising Politicians would have offered the confederacy to act upon it without admitting its justice—but what was the conduct of our Ministers? they felt that our naval superiority—that all that renders us great in the scale of nations, was involved in the maintenance of this important point—that we had justice and the law of nations on our side—and they determined, in spite of every difficulty, to assert the cause of their country.—We think the event will shew that they have done so successfully. If they had failed, we should even then have contended, that the measures adopted against the northern confederacy, were founded in wisdom—in a just sense of the interests of the nation, and were the result of that boldness and intrepidity, which in the midst of danger, and of difficulty, will ever, we trust, animate the breasts of those to whom the affairs of this Country are confided.

If that event, the most auspicious for the welfare and happiness of Europe, and particularly of this Country, had taken place a week sooner, it might, it has been said, have saved, the effusion of the blood which has been spilled at the attack of Copenhagen. It might have had that effect, but victory is seldom to be gained without the sacrifice of human lives, and we cannot but feel, if ever there was a nation which deserved chastisement for its perfidy, it was Denmark.—Scarcely had the Fleet of Admiral Dickson left Copenhagen, under the strongest assurance of the Danes abandoning, at least during the war, the support of a principle against which we contended, before the assertion and maintenance of that very principle was made the bond of a Confederacy, in which Denmark herself bore a principal part. The formation of this confederacy and its object were at first kept profoundly secret; but when Denmark thought she had sufficiently prepared for her defence, they were openly avowed. Was it not essential then to our honor, and to our future interests, to punish such a conduct? Was it not necessary to our security itself, to shew to the powers so leagued together, and to demonstrate to the world, the folly, as well as the injustice of such a combination?"