

and displays, with less than ordinary Reserve, the Arrogance and Injustice of that Government. The universal Spanish Nation, is described by the degrading Appellation of "the Spanish Insurgents," and the Demand for the Admission of the Government of Spain as a Party to any Negotiation, is rejected as inadmissible and insulting.

With Astonishment as well as with Grief His Majesty has received from the Emperor of Russia a Reply, similar in Effect, although less indecorous in Tone and Manner. The Emperor of Russia also stigmatizes as "Insurrection," the glorious Efforts of the Spanish People in Behalf of their legitimate Sovereign, and in Defence of the Independence of their Country; thus giving the Sanction of His Imperial Majesty's Authority to an Usurpation which has no Parallel in the History of the World.

The King would readily have embraced an Opportunity of Negotiation which might have afforded any Hope or Prospect of a Peace compatible with Justice and with Honour. His Majesty deeply laments an Issue, by which the Sufferings of Europe are aggravated and prolonged. But neither the Honour of His Majesty, nor the Generosity of the British Nation, would admit of His Majesty's consenting to commence a Negotiation, by the Abandonment of a brave and loyal People, who are contending for the Preservation of all that is dear to Man; and whose Exertion in a Cause so unquestionably just, His Majesty has solemnly pledged Himself to sustain.

*Westminster, December 15, 1808.*

AT the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the 14th of December 1808,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

IT is this Day ordered by His Majesty in Council, that the Parliament, which was to meet on Monday the Sixteenth Day of January next, be further prorogued to Thursday the Nineteenth Day of the same Month, then to meet for the Dispatch of Business: And the Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor of that Part of the United Kingdom called Great Britain is to cause a Commission to be prepared in the usual Manner for proroguing the Parliament accordingly. *W. Parokener.*

AT the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the 14th of December 1808,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

HIS Majesty, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, is pleased to order and declare, and it is hereby ordered and declared, that those

Ports and Places of the Island of St. Domingo, which are not in the actual Possession of France, and from which the British Flag is not excluded, shall be considered as not being in a State of Hostility with His Majesty, and that His Majesty's Subjects and others are at Liberty freely to trade thereat, in the same Manner as they may trade at Neutral Ports and Places;

Provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect any Question now depending in His Majesty's Tribunals respecting the Character of the said Ports and Places; but such Question shall be decided in the same Manner as if this Order and Declaration had not issued:

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and the Judges of His Majesty's Courts of Vice Admiralty, are to take Notice of His Majesty's Pleasure hereby signified, and govern themselves accordingly. *W. Parokener.*

Admiralty-Office, December 17, 1808.

*Copy of a Letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Bart. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the East Indies, to the Honourable William Wellesey Pole, dated on board His Majesty's Ship Culloden, in Bombay Harbour, the 7th of April 1808.*

SIR,

I REQUEST you will submit to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the inclosed Letter from Lieutenant William Dawson, acting in the Command of His Majesty's Ship St. Fiorenzo, stating the Particulars of the Capture of La Piedmontaise French Frigate, mounting Fifty Guns, on the 8th ultimo, in the Gulph of Manaar.

In making this Communication to their Lordships I am desirous of expressing those mingled Sentiments of Admiration and Concern which I experience in the Loss of Captain George Nicholas Hardinge, who fell in the Moment of Victory, after having exerted, during Three successive Days, the most remarkable Zeal, Gallantry, and Judgment in the Conduct of this very brilliant Action. His Majesty's Service has been thus deprived of a most excellent and distinguished Officer; of whom the highest Expectations have been justly formed, from a Knowledge of his many, great and excellent Qualities.

The Merit of Lieutenant William Dawson, upon whom the Command devolved after the Death of Captain Hardinge, is already well known to the Board by his gallant Behaviour on a former Occasion, when he was severely wounded at the Capture of the Psyche Frigate by the St. Fiorenzo, in which nearly the whole of her present Officers and Crew had the Honour to share.

The Manner in which he continued the Action, which had been so nearly concluded by his lamented Captain, and finally conducted it to a successful Issue, will, doubtless, secure to him the high Approbation and Reward of their Lordships.

The undaunted Bravery, the animated and persevering Exertions of every Officer, Seaman, and Marine on board the St. Fiorenzo, have been truly