

tirely, and, developing their secret Views, without Reason or Justice, have fallen upon several Free and Independent Republicks and States who had held themselves Neutral, like the Sublime Porte; invading their Territories when, least provided with the Means of Defence, and subjecting them to their Will by open Force and Hostility.

Thus, no one being left to control them; they tore the Veil of all Decorum at once; and, unmindful of the Obligations of Treaties; and to convince the World that Friendship and Enmity are the same Thing in their Eyes; contrary to the Rights of Nations, and in Violation of the Ties subsisting between the Two Courts; they came, in a Manner altogether unprecedented, like a Set of Pirates, and made a sudden Invasion in Egypt, the most precious among the Provinces of the Ottoman Porte; of which they took forcible Possession at a Time when they had experienced nothing from this Court but Demonstrations of Friendship.

Upon the first Surmise of the French Project to invade that Province, Ruffin, their Chargé d'Affaires at this Residence, was invited to a Conference, where he was questioned officially about this Business: He first declared he had no Intelligence whatever respecting it; but he gave it, as a Speculation of his own, that if such an Enterprize ever proved true, it probably must be to take Revenge of the Beys, and to annoy and attack the English Settlements in the East Indies.

In answer to this it was circumstantially stated to him, that the smallest Attempt, on the Part of the French, upon Cairo, on whatever Pretext it might be founded, would be taken as a Declaration of War, and thereby the Friendship subsisting between the Two Courts since the most ancient Times, would, both in a legal and political Sense, be converted into Enmity; that the Ottoman Empire would not suffer the Loss of a Handful of Sand of the Egyptian Territory; that the whole Ottoman Sect would set itself in Motion for the Deliverance of those blessed Lands; and that if the Chastisement of the Beys of Egypt was necessary, it behoved the Sublime Porte to inflict it on them as her Dependents; that the Interference of the French in this Business was inconsistent with the Rights of Nations; that the Court of Great Britain, being the dearest Friend of the Ottoman Empire, the Sublime Porte would never consent to the Passage of French Troops through her Territory to act against their Settlements; that in short, should even their Expedition to Egypt have no other Object but this, it would be equally construed into a Declaration of War; of all which he was charged to make the earliest Communication to the Directory in this very Language.

Dispatches, bearing Instructions to the same Effect, were at the same Time written to Aali Efendi, the Sublime Porte's Ambassador at Paris, who was moreover directed to demand officially an Explanation of the Matter upon the Spot.

Before the Communications sent by Ruffin to the Directory, and the Dispatches transmitted by the Sublime Porte to her Ambassador beforenamed, a Letter of an old Date was received by the said Ruffin, expressing that Buonaparte's Expedition to Egypt was true, but that the Object was to secure some Commercial Advantages by bringing the Beys to an Account, and to hurt Great Britain; that an

Ambassador had been appointed to prefer several Propositions favourable to the Interests of the Ottoman Porte, and to adjust the Affair in question; with this further ridiculous Hint, that were the Porte to declare War for this against the Republic, both Courts would lay themselves open to an Attack on the Part of the Emperor; all this the said Chargé d'Affaires delivered officially, and he also presented a Copy of that Letter.

Upon the other Hand, in the Answer received meanwhile from the Ottoman Ambassador above-mentioned, it was stated, that, in conformity to his Instructions, he had had an Interview with Talleyrand Perigord, the Minister of External Relations, in which he had produced his Dispatches, explained their Purport, and demanded officially a categorical Answer: That the said Minister (forgetting, as is to be supposed, the Tenor of the Letter which had been written to Ruffin some Time before) positively disavowed the Expedition against Egypt, and said that Buonaparte's Commission had no other Object but the Conquest of Malta; that the Abolition of the Order there being a Measure conducive to the Benefit of all the Turks, the Sublime Porte ought to feel even obliged by it; that the Directory had nothing more at Heart than to maintain the Peace existing with the Porte since Time immemorial, and more and more to strengthen the same; thus barefacedly exhibiting a Farce of the most artful Duplicity.

The wide Contradiction between the above Two Communications, being visibly a fresh Artifice by which to mislead the Ottoman Porte with her Eyes open, and to gain Time until Intelligence could be procured respecting the Affair of Egypt, the Result of which had not then come to their Knowledge; must not this most extraordinary Event be taken as a palpable Demonstration, that the Directors of the French Government, to second their own Ambition and Arrogance, have actually lost all Recollection of those Laws observed and maintained in every regular Government, and that no Faith whatever is to be placed in their Words and Professions?

From the Tenor of their arbitrary Proceedings and despotic Conduct, as too well witnessed from first to last, it is clear and evident, that their Project is no other, but to banish every orderly Institution from the Face of the World; to upset Human Society; and, by an alternate Play of secret Intrigue or open Hostility, as best suits their End, to derange the Constitution of every established independent State, by creating (as they have done in Italy) a Number of small Republicks, of which the French is to be the Parent Mother, and thus to sway and to conduct every Thing after their own Will every where.

Now Egypt being the Portal of the Two venerable Cities, (Mecca and Medina), and the present Operations in that Quarter being of a Nature affecting all the Mohamedan Sect at large, the Sublime Porte, consistently with her express Declarations to the above French Chargé d'Affaires, and through her Ambassador to the Directory at Paris, feels compelled, by every Law, to resist the sudden and unprovoked Aggressions and Hostilities committed by the French as above, and with a full Confidence in the Assistance of the Omnipotent