

Foundation of the Laws of Nature and of Nations, which enjoin and justify the Adoption of such Measures as are requisite for Defence, and the Prevention of Aggression.

It remains only further to observe, that if any additional Proof were requisite of the Wisdom and Necessity of precautionary Measures, that Proof would be found even in the Declaration relied upon in the Manifesto of Spain, in which its Government now states itself to have contemplated, from the Beginning of the War, the Necessity of making itself a Party to it, in Support of the Pretensions of France, expressly declaring, that "Spain and Holland, who treated conjointly with France at Amiens, and whose Interests and political Relations were so closely connected with her, must have with Difficulty refrained from taking Part against the Injuries and Insults offered to their Ally."

It will further appear, by a Reference to the Dates and Results of the several Representations made by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at the Court of Spain, that the Detention of the Spanish Treasure Ships never was in question during the Discussions which preceded his Departure from Madrid. That Ground of Complaint therefore, which has since been so much relied upon, formed no Part of the Motive of the previous hostile Character so strongly manifested by the Spanish Court in their Mode of treating the Points in Discussion, nor (as will appear in the Sequel) of the final Rupture of the Negotiation at Madrid.

On the Twenty-sixth of October, One thousand eight hundred and four, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires presented a Note to the Spanish Minister, in which the following Conditions were insisted upon as preliminary to the Appointment of a Minister from Great Britain, who might treat of the Adjustment of other Matters which remained for Discussion. The Conditions were Three; First, that the Orders given at Ferrol, Cadiz, and Carthagena should be countermanded, as well for the Equipment of Ships of War in any of those Ports, as for their Removal from one of those Ports to another. Secondly, that not only the present Armaments should be discontinued, but that the Establishment of Ships of War in the different Ports should be replaced on the Footing on which they stood at the Commencement of Hostilities between England and France. Thirdly, that a full Disclosure should be made of the existing Engagements, and of the future Intentions of Spain with respect to France. From the Period above-mentioned to the Second of November, several official Notes passed between His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires and the Spanish Minister, consisting, with little Variation in their Tenor, of urgent Demands of Satisfaction on the one Side, and of evasive and unsatisfactory Replies on the other. After repeated Delays and reiterated Applications, His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires received his Passports on the Se-

venth of November, and departed from Madrid on the Fourteenth of that Month. During the Whole of this Negotiation no Mention was made of the Detention of the Spanish Treasure Ships, nor does it any where appear that an Account had been received at Madrid of that Transaction. It is evident therefore, notwithstanding the Attempt made by the Spanish Court to avail itself of that Event, in the Manifesto which has been since published, that the State of War must equally have arisen between Great Britain and Spain, had the Detention never taken place, and that, in point of Fact, the Rupture ultimately took place upon Grounds distinct from, and totally unconnected with, that Measure.

The leading Circumstances which characterise the reiterated Abuse of His Majesty's Moderation, were each of them of a Nature to have exhausted any less settled System of Lenity and Forbearance. Succours afforded to His Enemies; Explanations refused or evaded after repeated Demands; Conditions violated, after distinct Notice that on them depended the Continuance of Peace. Such has been the Conduct of the Spanish Court; and it is, under these Circumstances, that His Majesty finds the domineering Influence of France exerted, and the Spanish Nation in a State of declared and open War.

His Majesty appeals with Confidence to all Europe for the Acknowledgment of His exemplary Moderation in the whole Course of these Transactions. His Majesty feels with Regret the Necessity which places Him in a State of Hostility with Spain; and would with heartfelt Satisfaction observe, on the Part of that Country, the Assumption of a more dignified Sense of National Importance, and a more independent Exercise of Sovereign Rights.

His Majesty would indeed be most happy to discover in the Councils of Spain a reviving Sense of those ancient Feelings and honorable Propensities which have at all Times been so congenial to the Spanish Character, and which, in better Times, have marked the Conduct of its Government. His Majesty will, on His Part, eagerly embrace the first Opportunity, thus offered, of resuming a State of Peace and Confidence with a Nation which has so many Ties of common Interest to connect it with Great Britain, and which He has hitherto been ever disposed to regard with Sentiments of the utmost Consideration and Esteem.

*Downing-Street, January 1805.*

AT the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the 23d of *January 1805.*

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

HIS Majesty having been pleased to appoint Francis Gore, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Islands and