

of Germany; and not content with this open Contempt of Obligations so recently contracted, had, at the same Time, instigated the Porte to Measures directly subversive of her subsisting Engagements with Russia.

While such a Conduct was pursued towards His Majesty, towards His Allies, and towards all Independent Powers, there appeared so little Hope of any favourable Issue to the Negotiation, that His Majesty's Plenipotentiaries demanded their Passports to return to England.

This Demand was at first eluded by an unusual and unexplained Delay, and the French Government afterwards, by some material Concessions, accompanied with Intimations that others of still greater Consequence might be the Result of further Discussion, procured a Renewal of the Conferences, which were protracted from Day to Day, till at length it was announced at Paris that the Emperor of Russia had indignantly rejected the unauthorised and separate Treaty signed by his Minister.

In consequence of this important Event, the strongest Assurances were given to His Majesty's Minister that France was now prepared to make Sacrifices to a great Extent, in order, by securing Peace with Great Britain, to re-establish the Tranquillity of the World.

The Object of these Assurances appeared however to be, that of engaging His Majesty in a separate Negotiation, to the Exclusion of His Allies; a Proposal which His Majesty had rejected in the Outset, and which He could still less admit of at a Time when the Conduct of Russia had imposed on Him an increased Obligation not to separate His Interests from those of so faithful an Ally. To these insidious Overtures, His Majesty steadily refused to listen; but He took the most effectual Method to avoid all Appearance of Delay, and to accelerate, if possible, the favourable Issue of the Negotiation. The confidential Intercourse which He had constantly maintained with Russia, enabled His Majesty to specify the Terms on which Peace with that Power might be obtained; and His Minister was accordingly instructed to state to France, in addition to His own Demands, those of His Ally, to reduce them into distinct Articles, and even to conclude on those Grounds a Provisional Treaty, to take effect whenever Russia should signify her Accession.

This Form of negotiating was, after some Objection, acceded to by France; Terms were now offered to His Majesty more nearly approaching than before to the original Basis of Negotiation; but these were still far short of what His Majesty had uniformly insisted on, and was now more than ever entitled to expect; and the decisive Rejection of the just Demands of Russia, as well as of the Conditions proposed by His Majesty in behalf of his other Allies, left to His Majesty no other Course than that of ordering his Minister to terminate the Discussion and return to England.

The foregoing short and simple Exposition of Facts stands in need of no Comment. The first Overtures which led to Negotiation were made by the Enemy, and they were accepted by His Majesty in the sincerest Spirit of Peace. Every Opening which seemed to afford the most distant Prospect of Accommodation has been anxiously embraced, nor was the Negotiation finally broken off, while any Hope of a favourable Issue could be enter-

tained. His Majesty's Demands were uniformly just and reasonable; directed to no Objects of Personal Aggrandizement, but to such only as were indispensably required by the Honour of His Crown, His Engagements to His Allies, and a due Consideration of the general Interests of Europe.

It is with heartfelt Concern that His Majesty contemplates the Continuance of those Evils always inseparable from a State of War; but it is with His Enemies that this awful Responsibility rests; and for the Issue of the Contest His Majesty trusts, with Confidence, to the Justice of His Cause; to the Resources and Bravery of His People; to the Fidelity of His Allies; and, above all, to the Protection and Support of the Divine Providence.

In contributing to the great Efforts which such a Contest must unavoidably require, His faithful and affectionate Subjects will not forget that all their dearest Interests are at Stake; that no Sacrifices they can be called upon to make are to be compared with the certain Disgrace and Ruin of yielding to the injurious Pretensions of the Enemy; that with the inviolable Maintenance of the good Faith and public Honour of their Country, its Prosperity, its Strength, and its Independence, are essentially connected; and that in asserting the Rights, and upholding the Dignity of the British Empire, they defend the most powerful Bulwark of the Liberties of Mankind.

Admiralty-Office, October 21, 1806.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of St. Vincent, K. B. Admiral and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Fleet, &c. to William Marsden, Esq; dated on board His Majesty's Ship the *Hibernia*, off *Usbant*, the 14th October 1806.

S I R,

I TRANSMIT herewith a Letter, with its Inclosures, which I have this Day received by the Nile Luggier, who conveys this to Plymouth, in pursuance of their Lordships' Instructions of the 18th Ultimo. I am, &c. ST. VINCENT.

Tonnant, off Cape Finisterre,
October 6, 1806.

MY LORD,

HEREWITH your Lordship will receive the Copies of Two Letters from Captain Collier, of His Majesty's Ship the *Minerva*, which mark the Continuation of that enterprising Spirit which has distinguished the *Minerva*'s Officers and Ship's Company during the whole Time she has been under my Orders.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) ELIAB HARVEY.

The Earl of St. Vincent, K. B. Admiral
and Commander in Chief.

His Majesty's Ship *Minerva*, at Anchor
off *Ons*, October 2, 1806.

S I R,

RECONNOITRING the Inlet of Pontevadra on the Night of the 29th Ult. in the Cutter, I stood in for the Mole of Porto Novo, and cut out Two Chasse Marées.

On the 1st, the Barge, under Lieutenant James, cut off from the Bay of Rocks a Spanish Luggier from Aviles.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) G. R. COLLIER.

Rear-Admiral Harvey, &c. &c. &c.