

His Royal Highness, however, deems it proper to declare, that, should the repeal of the French Decrees, thus anticipated and provided for, prove afterwards to have been illusory on the part of the Enemy; and should the restrictions thereof be still practically enforced, or revived by the Enemy;—Great Britain will be compelled, however reluctantly, after reasonable notice, to have recourse to such measures of retaliation as may then appear to be just and necessary.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and the Judges of the Courts of Vice-Admiralty, are to take the necessary measures herein as to them shall respectively appertain.

CHETWYND.

DECLARATION.

THE Government of France having by an official report, communicated by its Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Conservative Senate on the 10th day of March last, removed all doubts as to the perseverance of that Government in the assertion of principles, and in the maintenance of a system, not more hostile to the maritime rights and commercial interests of the British Empire, than inconsistent with the rights and independence of Neutral Nations—and having thereby plainly developed the inordinate pretensions which that system, as promulgated in the Decrees of Berlin and Milan, was from the first designed to enforce; His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, Acting in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, deems it proper, upon this formal and authentic republication of the principles of those Decrees, thus publicly to declare His Royal Highness's determination still firmly to resist the introduction and establishment of this arbitrary code, which the Government of France openly avows its purpose to impose by force upon the world—as the Law of Nations.

From the time that the progressive injustice and violence of the French Government made it impossible for His Majesty any longer to restrain the exercise of the rights of war within their ordinary limits, without submitting to consequences not less ruinous to the commerce of his dominions, than derogatory to the rights of his Crown, His Majesty has endeavoured, by a restricted

and moderate use of those rights of Retaliation, which the Berlin and Milan Decrees necessarily called into action, to reconcile Neutral States to those measures, which the conduct of the enemy had rendered unavoidable; and which His Majesty has at all times professed his readiness to revoke, so soon as the Decrees of the enemy, which gave occasion to them, should be formally and unconditionally repealed; and the commerce of Neutral Nations be restored to its accustomed course.

At a subsequent period of the war, His Majesty, availing himself of the then situation of Europe, without abandoning the principle and object of the Orders in Council of November 1807, was induced so to limit their operation, as materially to alleviate the restrictions thereby imposed upon neutral commerce.

The Order in Council of April 1809 was substituted in the room of those of November 1807, and the retaliatory system of Great Britain acted no longer on every country, in which the aggressive measures of the enemy were in force; but was confined in its operation to France, and to the countries, upon which the French yoke was most strictly imposed; and which had become virtually a part of the dominions of France.

The United States of America remained nevertheless dissatisfied; and their dissatisfaction has been greatly increased by an artifice too successfully employed on the part of the enemy, who has pretended, that the Decrees of Berlin and Milan were repealed, although the decree effecting such repeal has never been promulgated; although the notification of such pretended repeal distinctly described it to be dependent on conditions, in which the enemy knew Great Britain could never acquiesce; and although abundant evidence has since appeared of their subsequent execution.

But the Enemy has at length laid aside all dissimulation; he now publicly and solemnly declares, not only that those Decrees still continue in force, but that they shall be rigidly executed, until Great Britain shall comply with additional conditions, equally extravagant: and he further announces the penalties of those Decrees to be in full force against all nations, which shall suffer their flag to be, as it is termed in this new code, “denationalized.”

In addition to the disavowal of the blockade of May 1806, and of the principles on which that blockade was established, and in addition to the repeal of the British Orders in Council—he demands