



This Paper is published at an early hour every SUNDAY Morning, at "THE NEWS" Office, in Brydges-street, and distributed throughout the Metropolis, and within the Two-penny Post District, by Nine o'Clock.—Communications (post-free) respectfully attended to.

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

"I can, however, have no difficulty in acquainting you, that the claims of the Merchants connected with the outports have not been brought before Government by written documents, that they have been urged and discussed at personal conferences with individuals interested in their success, and that you have already been informed of the grounds upon which they were supported: but that it does not appear to his Majesty's Government, that you can be warranted in expecting that they should give a more particular account of the arguments adduced at these conferences."

"I may add, however, that as the Merchants and Manufacturers connected with the outports, considering themselves entitled at the expiration of the Charter of the East India Company, to carry on that trade from which they had been excluded for a limited time, had entered into a statement of their case by Petitions presented to Parliament in the course of the last Session, you may obtain from those records that further information which you appear desirous to possess."

"With regard to those points to which you have alluded as requiring particular regulation, the Ministers of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent having signified to you, that consistently with their sense of public duty, they can submit no arrangement to Parliament that does not include an extension of the Import Trade; and the Court of Directors having, with the knowledge of their opinions upon that point, by their Resolution of the 18th ult. declined to recommend to the Court of Proprietors to agree to such an extension, it would seem premature to enter into details until that question shall have been finally determined."

"You are apprized of the disposition of his Majesty's Government to adhere to the present system of Administration in India; and I am not aware, that if circumstances should admit of its continuance, it would be necessary to propose any material alteration in the existing provisions for carrying it into execution, except such as may arise from the opening of the trade."—*Extract of a letter from the Earl of Buckinghamshire to the Chairman of the East India Company, dated Jan. 4, 1813.*

The negotiation which has so long subsisted between his Majesty's Ministers and the Directors of the East India Company relative to the renewal of their Charter, appears, by the tenor of Lord Buckinghamshire's letter,—an extract of which we have given above,—to be considered as terminated. The point on which the two parties have split is, the proposed extension of the trade to India to a few of the principal outports.—The Company desiring to have it confined, as heretofore, to the Port of London—the Ministry wishing that Bristol, Liverpool, Hull, Glasgow, Dublin and Cork, should each have a portion. As the policy of thus partially throwing open the trade to the East Indies, may be said, either directly, or indirectly, to concern all, we shall concisely state the arguments urged by the Company against it.

Every one acquainted with the peculiar tenets of the Indian Mythology, and the great influence which the priests in all nations possess over the minds of an ignorant and superstitious people, must be well aware of the delicacy and forbearance which should be made use of, in commercial transactions with the inhabitants of Hindostan. A disregard of the religious prejudices of such a bigotted race, might endanger the very existence of our empire. The East India Company, therefore, with a respect founded on wisdom, have ever discountenanced the least attempts to hurt the feelings, or alter the faith of the passive, humble followers of the Hindu doctrine. This forms the ground of one of the Company's objections, to the laying open of the Indian trade. They say, if this takes place, it will be impossible to retain that check over individuals, which at present enables the Company to enforce a due regard to the religious principles of the Hindustans; and that the least deviation in this particular, might lead to a subversion of the entire frame of our Indian Government. The argument is plausible, and we are glad to find any set of men desirous of upholding that attention to religious feelings, which is due towards even the most ignorant; but we think, in addressing this argument to a Cabinet which is now

moving heaven and earth, to oppose the claims of the Irish Catholics, the East India Directors have shewn very little judgment. The objection, is nevertheless, a very formidable one; and we hope, when the business comes before Parliament, it will meet with due consideration.

The next ground the Company take is,—“that the granting of this privilege to the outports, would increase the spirit of rash speculation from Great Britain and Ireland, to the ruin of numbers of industrious families.” There is no doubt, that in the commencement of every new trade, experience must be purchased, and too often it is bought at a very dear rate. The rage of adventure to that precious gold mine *Buenos Ayres*, must be fresh in the recollection of our readers. Every excess of this kind, however, brings its own antidote, and it would be ridiculous to refrain from a general and positive good, because likely to be attended with partial or individual evil.

The next point of objection adduced by the Company is—the increased facilities which must be afforded to smuggling by the extension of the Indian trade to the outports. “If,” says one of the Directors, (Mr. ROBERT THORNTON) “this encroachment on the Company were to take place, all your ships will be henceforth either revenue cutters or smugglers; you will have colonies, but in consequence of your colonization you will soon lose your territories; and your commerce will be altogether illicit.”

This argument appears to have made very little impression on his Majesty's Ministers, and we must say we think it not entitled to much. From the proximity of the opposite coast to the port of London, it is more favourably situated for the purposes of smuggling than any port in the United Kingdom; and if measures can be adopted to prevent it there, we are convinced much less severe ones would be effectual to prevent it at any of the ports to which the trade is proposed to be extended.

The above are the main points urged by the Directors of the East India Company to induce Ministers to consent to confine the trade of India to the port of London, as heretofore.—They have, however, brought forward a subject in the shape of an objection of a minor nature—the difficulty of providing for the Lascars, whom individuals may bring over in private ships; and they have also made a feeble endeavour to interest the feelings of the public by a pompous statement of the wages they pay weekly; and of the numbers of families supported by their immense establishments. In reply to the first, it has been answered that *depots* may easily be formed for the Lascars, at each of the ports to which the trade is to be extended, upon the same principle as that in the neighbourhood of London; and as to the possible reduction of the Company's Establishments, in consequence of throwing open the trade,—the answer is:—if it occurs, it can only be a partial evil, which will be amply compensated, by the general good diffused throughout the country by the extension.

The question of the policy of this measure is of so highly important a nature, and involves points so vitally interesting to every subject of the United Kingdom, that it would be most presumptuous in any one, in the present stage of its discussion, to give a decisive opinion upon it. In an abstract point of view, it must be admitted it appears most unjust that the Merchants of one particular port should engross a trade which, by a natural right, belongs to all. The Merchants of the different towns to which it is intended to extend the trade, have equal claims to the attention of the Government as those of the City of London. They also urge the great increase of capital which they are able to employ in it—the competition which will be excited—and the great enlargement of the revenue, which must result from this competition. They repel with contempt the imputation of being prone to rash adventures—and contend that their mercantile experience renders them as able profitably to carry on the trade to India as the Merchants of the metropolis.—With respect to the idea held forth by the Directors that they will find it a losing trade, they very naturally

entertain doubts. They say—if the trade is of so unimportant or injurious a nature as you represent, why are you making such strenuous exertions to keep it to yourselves?—The Directors, we believe, will find it difficult to answer this question. On the whole, we are inclined to think Ministers stand on popular grounds in thus advocating the rights of the Merchants of the outports. From their timid, vacillating mode of conducting the public business, it was scarcely to be expected they would dare to encounter the Asiatic Monarchy of Leadenhall-street: and indeed it still remains to be proved whether the bullying threatening aspect put on by these Eastern Despots, will not have the effect of frightening them from the position they have taken. A choice of evils alone presents itself—either to be left in a minority by the desertion of their country friends—or boldly to set at defiance the managed hostilities of the Indian host. Appearances at present are much in favour of the adoption of the latter scheme:—and we hope Ministers will not be deterred from effecting what may prove a public good by any fears arising from the misrepresentations of interested men.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* of the 31st December contains the following notes on an article which appeared in an English Paper, stating, that the French were going to evacuate Spain, and that Lord Walpole had arrived at Vienna, and speculating upon the probable consequences of recent events:—

(1). So far from evacuating Spain, fresh troops are marching thither. Our armies have rendered all your efforts vain—and your country and your treasure are exhausted in this contest, so disproportionate to your population and the wants of your establishments in Asia and America. Spain belongs to the French Dynasty: no human effort can prevent it.

(2). Even Holland, Rome, Tuscany, Piedmont, Belgium, the county of Nice. That would be fine!—But why so much moderation? Why stop in so fine a career? Why not take advantage of the moment, and divide France? Believe me, that should you ever collect in a *corps de nation*, these 20 or 25,000,000 of men who are so near you, you will still be in danger:—Separate them—again make a Duke of Burgundy—a Duke of Aquitaine—a Duke of Normandy—a Duke of Brittany; then only you will have security!! Do you remember the fine times of Charles le Téméraire, and those of the House of Montfort? That would be very fine, would it not? But whilst you dream of these wonders, Ireland separates herself from you; your country is revolutionized; the Continent is already without dependence upon your Administration; even Russia, at present so dear, will not have your manufactured merchandize.

(3). Fortunately for the Continent, France and Austria are inseparable; it was the alliance of 1756 which created the marine that delivered America. Lord Walpole is no longer at Vienna; he was not listened to. No continental Power will separate itself from France; all will be deaf to your intrigues. Besides, forty millions of Frenchmen fear nothing. Woe to you if any weak Cabinet hearken to your councils. You will still be the cause of increasing the force of France; 400,000 men are actually on foot in the interior of France, without reckoning the armies in Spain, and the Grand Army. No fresh assistance of men or money is necessary to France; but if they were—if the destinies of the empire were menaced, know, that 300,000 men, and 300 millions are every year forthcoming. It will neither cost the nation men nor money to support its consideration, and the general safety of the empire, of Italy, and the Confederation of the Rhine.

(4). Look at the state of your affairs; they exclaim to you—moderation, moderation, moderation!

PARIS, JAN. 1.—To day, his Majesty the Emperor, after having as usual received the felicitations of the Imperial Family, returned to the grand hall of the throne: the Princes, Grand Dignitaries, &c. having presented their homage, the Grand Master of the Ceremonies having taken his Majesty's orders, introduced all the Officers of his Majesty's household.

[Here follows a long list of the different persons presented.]

FRANKFORT, DEC. 26.—The Generals Fabre and Lambert have passed through this city from the army. On the same day two couriers did the same, one of whom was going to the army, and the other proceeding from it to Paris.

CARLSRUHE, DEC. 23.—Twelve thousand infantry, and a train of artillery, set out this morning for the Grand Army, where they are going to reinforce the contingent of the Grand Duchy.

PARIS, DEC. 30.—Lord Paget, General Commandant