

THE NEWS.



No. 412.

SUNDAY,

MAY 9, 1813.

PRICE 8d.

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.

ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEATH OF BONAPARTE; WITH SOME REMARKS ON THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN IN GERMANY.

So many reports have been in circulation, and so many it is probable will be, of the death of BONAPARTE; that as an event not unlikely to happen—we think it worth while to consider, whether the government he has founded would perish with him; and what chance the BOURBONS would then have of re-possessing themselves of the Throne of their ancestors.

Much has been said and written, to convince the French Emigrants in England, that on the event of their master's restoration, if not again placed in actual possession of their paternal estates—they will be granted an equivalent of equal value. Also much has been promulgated to induce the present landed proprietors in France, to believe that all they now hold from the munificence of BONAPARTE, will be secured to their families—with rank, titles and honour, provided they assist the fugitive king in re-ascending the Gallic Throne. To acquire the services of the former on the terms proposed, is easy—they risk nothing, and may gain every thing. To move the latter is much more difficult. "Give me all you have got, and I will give it you back again," is a poor proposal to men who must be supposed to be a good deal actuated by views of self-interest. It is not likely that such men as the modern French noblesse, sprung as they in general are, from a low and base origin, will ever be animated by so enthusiastic a temper, as to sacrifice present wealth and distinction, at the shrine of future honour and visionary fame. They are well aware, that were they permitted under a BOURBON to retain their ill-gotten wealth, their titles would be worse than an empty name; for they would be the source of hatred and ridicule—all the power of a LOUIS could not procure for them distinction. The ancient nobility ever haughty, vain and proud; and now soured by exile and misfortune, would never be persuaded to amalgamate with men of mushroom titles; who like the glow-worm only glittered in the darkened hour, and faded at the approach of their more brilliant day. In them they could not fail to behold the murderers of their ancestors—the possessors of their hereditary estates—the scorpions, whose stings drove them from their native fields, to wander forth in helpless beggary through a scorning world. With such ideas, it is not probable the BOURBONS will ever derive much benefit from any promises they may make to the Princes, Dukes or Counts of the BONAPARTEAN Dynasty. Besides, the period when a grand Monarque dared to make his strumpet Colonel of the Guards—to decorate her with the order of St. Louis; and almost compel the nation to fall down and worship her, is remembered by the French with shame and indignation. The latter kings of the Capetian race, reudered themselves contemptible by their wickedness in the eyes of all. That contempt is yet firmly rooted in the bosom of every Frenchman; and should a BOURBON ever again hold in his feeble grasp, the sceptre his forefathers had neither the courage or the abilities to maintain, "Le Peuple Souverain" would leave him as little power to enforce his mandates, as the Stadholder of the Dutch, or the Doge of the Venetians formerly possessed.—Whatever, therefore, may be the ideas entertained in England, of the popularity of the BOURBONS in France—it is certain, that our bigotted JAMES, when counting his heads in sackcloth and ashes at St. Germain, was not more forgotten, or remembered to be more despised by our ancestors, than the fugitive Louis the XVIII. is now by the French people. For these reasons, in the event of the death of BONAPARTE, we neither expect any essential alteration in the existing constitution of France; or the restoration of the BOURBONS to their ancient Throne. The French would soon find amongst the Generals of NAPOLEON, a man able and willing to take his place; who, with equal talents, but less ambition, might render his people happy, and give repose to suffering Europe.

The death of the French Emperor, however, although it would, in our opinion, effect no radical

change in the French Government, might nevertheless by causing his armies to retire within their own frontier, bring round a negotiation for peace on reasonable terms; but of peace is not to be made (as our Ministerial Papers insinuate) but on condition of the BOURBONS being restored—France, we are persuaded, will war with us eternally. Here we are glad to observe, that our gallant Allies do not seem inclined to take a lesson from our intemperance. Freedom to Germany is at present their watchword—and we trust the recollection of the consequences attendant on the late Duke of BRUNSWICK'S conduct in the year 1793, will prevent them from extending their views so far as to interfere with the internal Government of an independent State.

With respect to the issue of the present campaign, it must be obvious that any opinion must be subject to circumstances, liable every hour to the most serious change. It is, however, best not to be too sanguine. Whether the Russians are equal to contend with the French, unaided by the powerful assistance of a rigorous climate, is still to be seen. We admit they possess many advantages over their opponents. They are now veterans—soldiers of experience, and the tide of victory swells every sinew, when it reaches to the heart in a continued stream of success. Still they have an active, formidable enemy to encounter, and should he succeed in forcing them to a battle—in hearing down a mighty overwhelming force on one particular point, as in all his great victories he ever has done, the consequences, we fear, would be fatal. In his situation, even a doubtful battle would be to him a victory—as to gain time is his grand object.—It should be always borne in mind, that the vigilance of this extraordinary man, who has foolishly been termed "a coward"—"a deserter"—and "a runaway," neither slumbers or sleeps—but that he is ever ready to seize those favourable moments of occasion, which are rapid in their progress, and which never return.—It should also be recollected, that it is not the renown or the infamy of BONAPARTE that is now at issue on the plains of Germany, but his life,—his empire.—Great indeed are the advantages our Allies have gained and favourable are their prospects—but neither so great, or so favourable as to justify us in anticipating a speedy or easy victory over such a man as BONAPARTE.

Amongst the most striking deficiencies in the character of the French Emperor, is that of suffering his hasty temper to threaten and punish, where prudence dictates he should rather pardon and conciliate.—Independent of the infamous cruelty attending his barbarities towards the Germans—they betray a want of policy, which must ultimately redound to his own injury. In shooting these unfortunates, he is advancing the cause of his enemies, and giving them zealous and faithful Allies. The Germans, from his present conduct, are aware that if ever the Tyrant returns it will be with a torch in one hand and a sword in the other. Were our abilities equal to our zeal, we would warn them with a patriot's voice, of all the miseries his unrelenting soul would inflict upon a conquered people. We, however, trust no voice is necessary. The spirit of the Germans unbroken—and exasperated by tyranny, is roused by the whole force of nature and reason. The thunder of the popular arm, directed by vigour and prudence, may yet overwhelm the Despot and all his schemes of ambitious villainy—may again reduce France to its ancient limits, and restore to Europe that balance of power which forms a secure bulwark to guard the integrity of kingdoms—extend the happiness of the human race, and shed the blessings of peace over a long-suffering and distracted world.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FROM THE FRENCH PAPERS.

AMSTERDAM, April 24—Extract of a letter from his Majesty, dated Mayence, April 21:—
"The corps of the Prince of Moskwa is in advance of Erfurth. Its advanced guard, commanded by General Souham, is at Weimar. The enemy has no infantry upon the left bank of the Elbe.

"The Duke of Ragusa is at Gotha, with the 6th corps.

"The Duke of Istria is with the Imperial Guard at Eisenach.

"General Bertrand, with the 4th corps, is at Colbourg.

"The Vice-Roy is in the same position—his left supported by the Ellic at the mouth of the Saale, his centre at Bernburg, his right to the Hartz. Forces arrive from all sides; and the enemy will be forced to a speedy retreat."

"The Prince Arch-Treasurer of the Empire, the Duke of Plaisance."

FRANKFORT, APRIL 25—The Emperor set out yesterday, at eight o'clock in the evening, from Mayence, and arrived here a little before eleven o'clock.—His Majesty only stopped the time necessary to change horses. He took the road to Hanau. The immediate suite of the Emperor only consisted of five carriages. His Serene Highness the Prince of Neuchâtel, the Duke of Vicenza, and the Duke de Friuli, accompanied his Majesty.

FROM THE GERMAN PAPERS.

HAMBURG, APRIL 30.—Affairs begin to look more gloomily here. The French, who took possession of Luneburg a few days since, marched into Harburgh yesterday morning at eleven o'clock. The Russian light corps and the detachments of the Hanseatic Legion had previously withdrawn to this side of the Elbe. Nothing is yet known of the French force, more than that it was decidedly superior to any that we could bring into the field in this quarter. Davoust is said to be at its head; he left Magdeburgh lately; the successes of the Russian partizans made it necessary for him to be active. His whole strength is probably about 10,000. The detachment which entered Harburgh is varied by rumour from 500 to 2,500 men, under the command of General Sebastiani. You see all the minutiae depend on rumour, for the enemy have not being long enough in our neighbourhood to allow of any more accurate estimate. The French in Hanover cannot be less than 20,000, and they have complete possession of the country. The peasants are well affected, but they have neither arms nor leaders. Since the seizure of Count Bentinck no man of any distinction has come forward, and it would be the extreme of cruelty and folly to urge them to insurrection without some assurance of support. Yesterday was, as it might be conjectured, a day of considerable anxiety in Harburgh. As soon as it was known that the French had entered Harburgh, General Tetenborn went to inspect the works at a little island which defends the passage of the river, with a detachment of the Hanseatic Legion, and some artillery, for its garrison. In the evening all the troops were on the alert, and a large division remained on their arms during the night. A fire was commenced early in the evening from the island on the French, and probably with some effect, for a small vessel which they had seized was observed to be destroyed. It is honourable to the people of Harburgh, that with all the painful consequences that must offer themselves, there has been no symptom of faint-heartedness among them. The passing of cavalry, and the posting of the troops, produced an unusual bustle of course during the night, but the people were tranquil and orderly. Harburgh is scarcely to be taken by a coup de main from the present position of the enemy. Their nearest post is Harburgh, which, though in sight of the ramparts, is on the other side of the river, where it is a German mile wide, with an intricate navigation through lowlands, and the additional defence of Wilhelmberg. But it could not be expected to hold out for any length of time, against a force equal to undertake a regular siege. By the largest calculation the strength which it furnishes at present, is about 10,000, of whom 7000 are of the Bürger guard, scarcely disciplined, irregularly armed, and of all ages.

The Hanseatic Legion forms a corps, that for appearance would do honour to any city: but a few weeks' training—utter ignorance of real service—and volunteer officers, can render them only equal to the service of Volunteers, and it would be the extreme of rashness to expose them in the field; but if the people abandoning the country, and even the ramparts, which from their want of artillery they must find it impossible to defend, were to resolve on defending the city within itself, there is, perhaps, no spot in Europe where the resistance might be so formidable. The streets are close, narrow, and winding; the houses lofty, and built with the solidity of Dutch workmanship; canals run through every quarter; there are more bridges than streets; the communication might be cut off at every hundred yards, and every hundred yards might cost a battle. The population is reckoned at 100,000: the lower orders are an uncommonly robust and firmly formed race, active, and hating the French. If among the people of the north we could look for the stirring up of one of those characters of romantic valour, that some times give a new life to nations, we might hope for this city a fame not inferior to that of the noblest examples of national devotedness and deliverance.

General Thielman, with 10,000 Saxons, has, at For-