

EUROPE.

THE EXPRESS FROM PARIS.
From the Gazette de France, of January 18,
[By an Extraordinary Courier.]

Yesterday the Cortes held an extraordinary sitting to deliberate upon the letter of M. the Count de Villele to M. the Count de Lagarde, and the notes of Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The galleries were thronged with a multitude of spectators.

M. de San Miguel, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, opened the sitting by stating that the government of his Majesty had received official communications from the Cabinets of France, Russia, Austria, and Prussia, through the medium of the ministers of these powers at Madrid. Although, he observed, the affairs to which these notes related did not precisely come under the province of the Cortes, yet the government was desirous of giving a proof of the harmony which reigned between the two principal bodies of the state, by making known to the assembly the contents of the said documents, as also the answers of the government of his Majesty. The latter flatters himself with having followed, on this occasion, the course indicated to him by his patriotism and the national dignity.

M. de San Miguel, after having read the letter addressed to M. de Lagarde, read the following answer:

To the Minister Plenipotentiary of his Majesty at Paris, &c.

"The government of his Catholic Majesty has just received communication of a note sent by his most Catholic Majesty to his Ambassador at his Court, and of which your Excellency will receive a copy for your information.

"The government of his Majesty has few observations to make upon this note, but in order that your Excellency may not be embarrassed as to the line of conduct you ought to pursue under these circumstances, it has deemed it its duty frankly to state to you its sentiments and resolutions.

"The Spanish government has never been ignorant that the institutions spontaneously adopted by Spain would excite the jealousy of several of the Cabinets of Europe, and that they would be the object of deliberation at the Congress of Verona. But, firmer in its principles, and resolved at every sacrifice to defend its present political system, and the national independence, it has tranquilly awaited the result of this Congress.

"Spain is governed by a constitution promulgated, accepted, and sworn to in 1812, and recognized by all the powers who assembled themselves in Congress at Verona.

"Perfidious counsellors prevented his Catholic Majesty, Ferdinand VII. from swearing, on his return to Spain, to this fundamental code, which the whole nation desired, and which was destroyed by force, without any remonstrance on the part of the powers who had recognized it; but an experience of six years, and the general will, engaged his Majesty in 1820, to conform to the views of Spaniards.

"It was not a military insurrection that established this new order of things at the commencement of the year 1820.—The courageous men who so decidedly declared themselves in the Isle de Leon, and successively in other provinces, were only the organs of general opinion and of the desires of the whole nation.

"It was natural that a change of this nature should make some disaffected; it is an inevitable consequence of all reform which has for its object the diminution of abuses. In all nations there are individuals who can never accustom themselves to the yoke of reason and justice.

"The army of Observation, which the French government maintains at the foot of the Pyrenees, cannot calm the disorders which afflict Spain. Experience, on the contrary, had proved, that the existence of this sanitary cordon (recently transformed into an army of observation) has only increased the hopes of the fanatics who have propagated the cry of rebellion in our province, by cherishing the idea of an immediate invader of any territory.

"The principles, the views, or the fears which have influenced the conduct of the Cabinets which assembled at Verona, can not serve as a guide to the Spanish government. It abstains, for the moment, from making any reply to that portion of the instructions of M. the Count de Lagarde, which immediately relates to the said Congress.

"The days of calm and of tranquillity which the government of his most Christian Majesty wishes to the Spanish nation, the latter does not less anxiously desire for herself and her government. Both being persuaded that the remedy can only be the work of time and perseverance, they are, as they are bound to do, making every effort to accelerate their useful and salutary effects.

"The Spanish government appreciates the offer made to it by his most Christian Majesty, to contribute all in his power to its happiness; but it is persuaded, that the means and the precautions which his Majesty adopts, can produce only the contrary results.

"The aid which the French Government ought at the present moment, to give to that of Spain, is purely negative; it must dissolve its army of the Pyrenees, repulse the factious enemies of Spain who take refuge in France, and oppose itself in the most energetic manner against all those who indulge in defaming, in the most shameful manner, the government of his Catholic Majesty, as also the institutions of Spain and her Cortes. This is what the right of nations demands, a right respected in those States where civilization reigns.

To say that France desires the well-

fare of Spain and her tranquillity, whilst firebrands like these, which feed the evils that afflict her are kept continually flaming, is to fall into an abyss of contradictions.

"Whatever may be the determination which the government of his most Christian Majesty may deem it expedient to come to under these circumstances, that of his Majesty will be to continue tranquilly in the path traced out to it by its duty, the justice of its cause, and the character of firmness and attachment to constitutional principles, which eminently distinguish the nation, at the head of which it is placed, and without entering, for the moment, into analysis of the hypothetical and ambiguous expressions contained in the instructions sent to the Count de Lagarde, it concludes that the repose and prosperity of the nation, as also every thing which may increase the elements of her welfare, ought to interest no power more than herself; that her motto and the rule of her present and future conduct, are, constant attachment to the Constitution of 1812, peace with all nations, and especially the never admitting the right of any power whatever to interfere in her affairs.

"Your Excellency is authorized to read this note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to give him a copy, if he require it. Your judgment and prudence will suggest to you the firm conduct, a conduct worthy of Spain, which you ought to pursue at this moment.

"Such are the communications which his Majesty orders me to make to you. (Signed) "EVARISTE SAN MIGUEL."

M. de San Miguel afterwards read the three notes of Prussia, Russia, and Austria, and said:

"The government of his Majesty has considered that it was neither becoming nor just to reply to these notes, because they are full of invectives, calumnies, and suppositions, directed, not precisely against the nation, but those that govern, and against the individuals who have co-operated to our regeneration.

"The government of his Majesty having knowledge of the contents of these notes, has thought it becoming (reserving, however, the right to publish its principles and the justice of its cause in a sincere exposition of the history of our revolution) to declare, in the most decided manner, that it neither recognizes in any manner, the right of intervention, nor admits the necessity for any Foreign Cabinet to meddle with its affairs.

"I have now the honor to read to the assembly the note which will serve as an answer to the different cabinets."

"It would be unworthy the Spanish government to answer the notes of Russia, Austria, and Prussia, because they are only a tissue of lies and calumnies; it confines itself to making known to you its intentions.

"1. The Spanish nation is governed by a constitution which was solemnly recognized by the Emperor of Russia in 1812.

"2. The Spaniards, friends to their country, proclaimed, at the beginning of the year 1812, this constitution, which was abolished, solely by violence, in 1814.

"3. The constitutional King of Spain freely exercises the power vested in him by the fundamental code.

"4. The Spanish nation does not in any way interfere with the institutions and internal regime of other nations.

"5. The remedy for all the evils which may afflict the Spanish nation only concerns her self.

"6. The evils which she experiences are not the effect of the constitution, but of the efforts of the enemies who endeavour to destroy her.

"7. The Spanish nation will never admit the right of any power to interfere in her affairs.

"The Government will never deviate from the line traced out to it by its duties, the national honour, and by its unalterable attachment to the Constitution sworn to in 1812.

"I authorize you to communicate verbally this paper to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Power to which you are accredited, and to deliver him a copy, if he require it.

"His Majesty hopes that the prudence, the zeal, and the patriotism, which distinguish you, will suggest a firm conduct, such as is worthy of the Spanish name under present circumstances. This is what I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency, by order of his Majesty.

"I renew to you the assurances, &c. (Signed) "Evariste St. Miguel."
Madrid, January 9.

Note addressed by the Prussian Minister at the Court of Madrid to Senor San Miguel.

The observations which the undersigned Charge d'Affaires of his Majesty the King of Prussia had the honour to submit, on the 6th current, to his Excellency Senor Col. San Miguel, Secretary of State to his Most Catholic Majesty, having been replied to in a manner far from conformable to the wishes of his Court, finds himself under the necessity of executing a very pre-emptory order of the King, his Master, by declaring to the Spanish Minister that his Prussian Majesty can no longer maintain with Spain relations which, in the present circumstances, would be as little conformable to their object, as to the sentiments of friendship and interest which the King has invariably manifested towards his Catholic Majesty.

In obeying this order, the undersigned has also to make his assurances, that the King, his august Sovereign, will never cease to put up the most sincere prayers for the happiness of a nation which his Majesty, with the deepest sorrow, perceives to be in the road to ruin, and plunged in all the horrors of anarchy and civil war.

I have the honour to request your excellency will be pleased to transmit me the passports necessary for my leaving Spain; and I renew the assurances of my high consideration.

ANSWER.
I have received the note which your Excellency transmitted to me under date of the 10th; and contenting myself with stating in reply, that the wishes of the Government of his Most Catholic Majesty for the happiness of his Prussian Majesty are not less ardent than those manifested by his Majesty the King of Prussia towards Spain, I transmit to your Excellency, by the royal order, the passports for which you have applied. (Dated at the Palace, Jan. 11, 1823, and signed with the usual formalities.)
EVARISTO SAN MIGUEL.

THE RUSSIAN NOTE.
The undersigned, Charge d'Affaires of his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, has seen with real pain the answer of his Excellency Senor San Miguel, to his verbal communication made on the 6th of this month, is very far from fulfilling the wishes of which he was the medium.

To place in a still clearer light the justice of the cause which he has sustained, and to cause the benevolent intentions of Russia to be appreciated, I have the honour to address officially to his Excellency Senor San Miguel, a copy of the despatch which I prevented to him.

The facts therein recorded are of general notoriety. No reasoning can change them, and consequently the undersigned can have no motive for altering his first communication.

That communication is about to be published to Europe, and Europe will judge between the powers who are animated by the noble desire of doing good, and a government which appears to be resolved to fill up the cup of the misfortunes of Spain.

With respect to the determination announced in the note of his Excellency Senor Miguel, all the responsibility will fall on the heads of those persons who are to be considered as its sole authors; and while the same persons deprive their legitimate sovereign of his liberty—while they deliver up Spain to all the evils of sanguinary anarchy, and by means of keeping up a culpable understanding, endeavour to extend to other States the calamities in which they have involved their own country, Russia can maintain no relation with authorities which tolerate and even excite such disorders.

The undersigned has therefore the honor to request that his Excellency Senor San Miguel will send to him his passports, adding to them passports for the persons who compose the Imperial Legation at the Court of his Most Catholic Majesty.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to his Excellency Senor San Miguel, the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

(Signed) "THE COUNT DE BULGARA."
Madrid, Dec. 28, (Jan. 8.)

ANSWER.

I have received the very insolent note which your Excellency transmitted to me yesterday, the 10th instant, and limiting myself for my sole reply to stating that you have shamefully abused (perhaps through ignorance) the law of nations, which is always respectable in the eyes of the Spanish nation, I transmit by order of His Majesty, the passports you require, hoping that your Excellency will be pleased to leave the capital with as little delay as possible. I am, &c.
EVARISTO SAN MIGUEL.

January 11.

THE AUSTRIAN NOTE.
The Allied Sovereigns, assembled at Verona, have been of opinion that they could no longer remain silent to the misfortunes and disorders which desolate Spain. Their duty and their consciences oblige them to speak, and the undersigned Charge d'Affaires for Austria has had the honour of making known to Col. San Miguel, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to his Most Catholic Majesty, the sentiments and wishes of the Emperor.

The reply which his Excellency gave to this verbal communication proves that the intentions of his Majesty have been misinterpreted, and his efforts undervalued. The undersigned will not descend to the point of refuting the calumnious insinuations by which it has been endeavoured to distort his real meaning. Very soon Spain and all Europe will be enabled to judge of this. But the Court of Austria is of opinion that its disapproval of the cause of the evils which oppress a noble and generous nation, for which it professes so much esteem, and feels so much interest would not be sufficiently declared if it continued to maintain diplomatic relations with the Spanish government. In execution of his orders, the undersigned, therefore, informs the secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that his mission is terminated, and requests that his Excellency will have the goodness to forward to him his passports.

On this occasion the undersigned has the honour to offer to his Excellency the homage of his high consideration.

(Signed) Count BRUNETTI.
Madrid, Jan. 10.

ANSWER.
I have received a note which your Excellency was pleased to remit to me, dated yesterday, the 10th and having now only to say that the government of his Catholic Majesty is indifferent whether it maintains relations or not with the court of Vienna, I send you by a royal order the passports which you have required. I am, &c.
EVARISTO SAN MIGUEL.
Madrid, Jan. 11.

We (Journal Des Debats) gave on the 12th inst. the three letters of the Charges d'Affaires of Russia, Prussia, and Austria to M. San Miguel, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Spanish government, as well as the answers of that Minister.—The following is a new document to add to those official notes—

Copy of a letter addressed by Count de Bulgara, the Russian Charge d'Affaires, to M. San Miguel, dated Madrid, Jan. 13.

"Sir—I have received the note which your Excellency transmitted to me, dated the day before yesterday.

"The respect which I owe to the forms and principles admitted and consecrated by all civilized nations, prevents me not only from replying to that note, but even from making it known to my government.

"I hasten therefore, to send it back to your Excellency, for the eyes of the Emperor, my master, must not be disgusted by the perusal of a production which I abstain from characterizing, and in which his Imperial Majesty and Europe would look in vain for the slightest evidence of a government which knows how to respect itself. I have the honour to be, &c."

Madrid, Dec. 27.—The following is the Royal Ordinance issued by the King, dated the 20th December, and which has spread an alarm through the whole Peninsula.—

"The Minister of the Interior to the Political Chiefs of the Provinces.
"The English Government having claimed an indemnity for various captures made from the merchants of that nation, from the year 1804 up to the present time, and also for various other damages occasioned to the English property, assigning for this decision a space of time, during which it is impossible for the King to come to any resolution, therefore, till this can be effected, which will be done as soon as possible, to avoid the injury which would result to the property of the Spanish merchants.

"The King commands me to declare to the Consulate, that there have sailed from the ports of England various ships of war for the Terra Firma and Porto Rico, with orders to detain Spanish vessels to the amount of the debt which the English Government claims. His Majesty hopes to terminate amicably and with justice an affair so nearly affecting the interests of the subjects of both nations. This important notice is to serve to prevent the injury which may accrue in the interval which must necessarily elapse. You will acquaint the Consulates in your Province with this present notice.

(Signed) "GASCO."
"Madrid, Dec. 20, 1822"—A similar circular has been sent to the Consulates in the Colonies.

The Queen of Portugal, Sister to Ferdinand VII.

The following is the letter of her Majesty, the Queen of Portugal, to her august spouse, relative to the oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the Cortes:—

"I received last night through the hands of one of your Ministers, the order to quit your States. So then it was for the purpose of sending me into exile, that you induced me to descend from the Throne to which you raised me. I pardon and I compassionate you from the bottom of my heart. All my content, all my hatred, shall be reserved for those by whom you are beset and deceived. In exile I shall be more free than you in your Palace. I carry with me liberty. My heart is not enslaved. It has never craved before those rebellious subjects who have dared to impose laws upon you, and who wished to force upon me an oath which my conscience rejected. I yielded not to their menaces; I obeyed a voice from heaven, which announced to me that if the period of greatness was passed, that of glory was commencing: for the world would say, 'The Queen has preserved, unaltered, the majesty of the diadem: she has not consented that its splendour should be dimmed; and whilst Monarchs (Ames couronnes) who hold the sceptre and the sword, succumbed, she remained unshaken, and without reproach.'"

"As your obedient wife, I shall obey thee, Sir, but I shall obey thee alone. To you alone I will say, that my illness and the rigours of the season at this moment, render my departure impossible. They have not yet required of you to order my being put to death. I shall soon depart; but to find a place of repose, whether shall I direct my steps? The country of my birth, as well as yours, is a prey to the spirit of revolution. My brother, like yourself, is a crowned captive! And it is to no purpose that his youthful spouse asks permission to mingle her tears with mine in pious seclusion! You will not refuse permission to my children to accompany me. Among the laws you have imposed, there is not one which tears children from their mothers; and though my rights as a Queen may be despised, those of a mother will perhaps be respected.

"At the approach of spring I shall quit these States, that land in which I reigned, and in which I have done some good. I will go to share the dangers of my brother, and I shall say to him—'They could not force me to yield! I am exiled, but my conscience is pure, for I called to mind the blood that flowed in my veins. Adieu, Sir; I leave you, old and infirm, on a tottering throne. In leaving you my grief is extreme. Your son is not with you, and the evil-disposed keep you from him more studiously than they do even their mothers. May He who reigns over Kings, watch over you, whom you exile, may be, she shall pray for your Majesty, she shall beg of God to grant you long life, and at length to bestow upon that country, whence I am exiled, peace and prosperity.'"

THE QUEEN.

PARIS, Jan. 28.

SPEECH OF THE KING OF FRANCE.

Delivered at the opening of the Session of the two Chambers.

His Majesty having remained uncovered for a moment, delivered the following Speech.
"Gentlemen—The length of the two last Sessions, the short time which they have left you unoccupied, would have made me wish to be able to put off for a short time, the opening of the present. But the regular vote of the expenditure of the State is an advantage of which you have felt all the value; and in order to preserve it, I have counted upon the same devotion which were necessary to obtain it.

"The situation of the interior of the kingdom is improved—the administration of justice loyally exercised by the Juries, wisely and rigorously directed by the magistrature, has put an end to the plots and attempts at revolt which were encouraged by the hope of impunity.

"I have concluded with the Holy See those conventions which were necessary for the formation of the new diocese of which the law authorises the establishment.

"Every where the churches will be provided with their pastors;—and the clergy of France, completely organized, will bring upon us the blessings of Providence.

"I have provided by ordinances, as economy in our expenses required, regular order in the accounts. My Ministers will submit to the sanction of the law the accounts of the expenses of the year 1821. They will furnish you with the statement of the receipts and expenses effected in 1822, and that of the charges and resources to be expected in 1824.

"It results from these documents, that all prior expenses being liquidated—even those which the military preparations have rendered necessary—we enter upon the year 1823, with forty millions of excess upon the accounts open for this year; and that the budget for 1824 will present a balance of receipts and expenses, without requiring the employment of this reserve.

"France owed to Europe the example of a prosperity which a nation cannot obtain but by the return to religion—to legitimacy—to order—to true liberty. That salutary example she now gives.

"I have done every thing to insure the security of my subjects, and to preserve Spain

from the extreme of misfortune; the infatuation with which the propositions, sent to Madrid, have been rejected, leaves little hopes of peace.

"I have ordered the recall of my Minister, and one hundred thousand Frenchmen, commanded by a Prince of my family, by whom it delights my heart to call my son, are about to march and invoke the God of St. Louis to preserve the throne of Spain to a grand son of Henry IV. to preserve that fine Kingdom from ruin, and to reconcile her to Europe.

"Our stations will be promptly reinforced wherever maritime commerce requires protection. Cruisers will be sent out on all parts of the coast which may be menaced.

"If war be inevitable, I will make every effort to confine its circle and limit its duration. It will be only undertaken to conquer a peace, the attainment of which the present state of Spain renders impossible. Let Ferdinand VII. be free to give his subjects institutions which they can only hold from him, and which, by insuring their repose, will dispel the inquietude of France, and hostilities will from that moment cease. I here, gentlemen, before you, make this solemn engagement. It was incumbent upon me to submit to you the state of our exterior relations—it was for me to deliberate, I have done so maturely, I have consulted the dignity of my Crown and the security of France; we are Frenchmen, and we shall be always united in defence of such interest."

PORTUGAL.

The London Courier calls the particular attention of its readers to the following article from Lisbon.

Lisbon, Jan. 5.—In the sitting of the Cortes on the 31st December, the Minister of Foreign Affairs presented a memoir upon the political relations of Portugal with the other powers of Europe. It was ordered to be printed; and the Minister afterwards gave the following exposition to the Cortes.

"His most faithful Majesty having required from the friendship of Great Britain a frank declaration, he doubts not, that with this guarantee Portugal may dispense with contracting new alliances; but his Britannic Majesty did not consider it consistent with the principles of his actual policy to make the declaration required also by other treaties with other powers, and found it impossible to give to Portugal this new proof of friendship, and to all the world, an instance of his respect for the natural independence of nations. His most faithful Majesty did not, however, consider that commercial and amicable relations between the two nations, would be altered; but he saw himself obliged to seek in fresh alliances, the aid which the Peninsula requires at this moment, when it is menaced by the formidable league of four great powers, which assert the right to decide, among themselves, as to the nature and form of the governments of Europe."

To this confidential, sincere, and amicable communication of his Majesty, the British Minister made the following reply:—"The English Government having solemnly declared in the face of the world, that it does not assume the existence of a right of intervention in the internal concerns of other States, England will feel herself obliged to lend to this Kingdom all the succour of which it may stand in need, as often as its independence may be menaced by any other power, in any manner whatever. This promise, which is only the repetition of that which England has made under other circumstances and at various times, has no relation, and can have none with our political institutions; its object being simply to declare that those institutions have not changed, in any manner, the relations which heretofore existed between the two countries.

"Such, gentlemen, is the ultimatum of Great Britain. All Europe will see what we have to expect from that power, in the great struggle, in which we may be engaged."

"His Majesty's Government convinced of the dispositions of the Cabinet of his Britannic Majesty, in consequence of this explanation, so explicit, and of its preceding protestations, will always bear them in mind in whatever measures he may have to adopt to secure the independence of the Portuguese name. They shall be communicated to the Sovereign Congress in proportion as the negotiations on which they depend, may proceed."

SUMMARY.

From the Com. Advertiser, March 11.

By the latest news from Madrid, (Jan. 17) it would appear that the army of the Faith is not so nearly annihilated, as it had been represented to be. We there read that Catalonia and Arragon were never more full of Royalist guerrillas than now. Miralles made a terrible example at Tarragona, by cutting to pieces a constitutional battalion which refused to lay down its arms on the first summons. The accounts, however, upon both sides, are to be received with great caution.

A letter from Paycard, says, the news of war between the Sovereigns of Europe and the Cortes, was received by the royalist troops shut up in the forts of Urgel, with the most lively enthusiasm. Acclamations and discharges of artillery rent the air on the occasion; the bells were rung at Castell-Cintra, a village situated between the citadel and the forts, composed of about forty houses, and conveniently situated for making common cause with the besieged.

A letter from Madrid says—All the constitutional orators and writers had told us that the instant the French should pass the Pyrenees, the "factious" would make common cause with the "friends of the system." An intercepted letter of the famous Merino, suddenly extinguishes this hope. He therein orders his Lieutenant, Mendoza, to receive the French as "liberators, faithful subjects of the Bourbons, good Catholics, in a word, as friends."

It was reported at Paris on the 28th, that the three Courts of Russia, Austria, and Prussia, have addressed a joint note to the British Government, soliciting her to make a declaration of the principles and policy she intends to adopt in the war between France and Spain.

General Mina, it is said, has given the deadly advice to divide the whole of the forces under his command into bands of one hundred men each, for the purpose of harassing the French by a guerilla warfare on a grand scale.

A French ministerial paper states that France has refused the mediation of England, twice proposed; first by the Duke of Wellington, and secondly by Sir W. A. Court. The Ambassadors of Russia, Austria, and