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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, MAY 23.

HIS MAJESTY's MESSAGE.

(CONCLUDED.)

The duke of Norfolk observed, that the article of the treaty of Amiens, respecting Malta might have been fulfilled, and the island rendered perfectly secure under the guarantee of Russia, and the relative situation of this country and France, as applying to that particular period, need not have been an obstacle in the way of such an arrangement. It was at any rate acknowledged that Malta was not necessary to this country as a possession in perpetuity, by a project of ministers, which limited this possession to ten years, at the end of which period it was to be given up. With respect to the provisions of the treaty of Amiens, he did not think that, under the circumstances of that moment, ministers could have made a better peace than they did. If we were actually driven into a war, the first consul of France would not find any Englishman who would not fight for his security. At the same time that he gave his assent to the address, he could not avoid expressing his expectation that an opening would still be left for peace, and his hope that his majesty would be graciously pleased to avail himself of every opportunity for negociation which was consistent with the honor of the country.

Lord King said, he thought there were great objections, in many points, to the address, which went to pledge the house to war. It must be obvious that this country, so much of whose territories were scattered abroad, could make little or no impression upon France; consisting, as it did, of one solid compact mass. He considered the peace of Amiens as an experiment for the purpose of temporising, and he wished that that experiment had been persevered in for a further period. The question respecting Malta was not a sufficient ground for war. The renewal of the war was a question of prudence; and when he considered the state of our finances, he did not think that the renewal of it was prudent at the present moment. He concluded by moving an amendment to the address, the object of which was, "To assure his majesty, that the house would support his majesty in every just arrangement which his majesty might be graciously pleased to make, for the preservation of peace."

Earl Moira acknowledged the justice of the picture which some noble lords had drawn of all the calamities attendant on a state of war. It was like the pestilential blast of the desert, which withered every thing before it. He also agreed with the sentiments of the noble lord who proposed the amendment, that their lordships had not merely to decide upon their own feelings and interests, but how far the feelings of the people of the country were congenial, and how far their interests were to be affected. However, though he coincided in this position, and sincerely approved the motives which actuated the conduct of that noble lord, he could not help regretting that any amendment should have been proposed which could tend to produce the least diversity of sentiment upon an occasion, when unanimity was so very desirable and might be productive of the last consequence to the fate of the country. Passing from this amendment, which the noble earl expressed his hope would not be pressed, he took notice of the manner in which a noble and learned judge had treated the complaints of the French government with respect to the publications in this country, refering to its administration;—and upon this point he was ready to admit the candor of the noble secretary of state as to the offensive tendency of the general tenor of those publications—for offensive many of them certainly were. Among those, however, he did not mean so much to dwell upon the sentiments of the English newspapers, as upon those which appeared in French newspapers published in London, particularly the *Courier de Londres*, a paper understood to be in a great degree under the peculiar patronage of his majesty's ministers.

If so, the French government had very just reason to complain. It was reviled in the grossest terms of abuse in this publication, and why, he would ask, should a paper, which could not be so employed for any purpose of amusing or informing the people of this country, be suffered to pursue that system of conduct which must operate to disturb the amity subsisting between the two governments: more particularly when government had power, under the alien act, to send the editor out of the country, if it chose to discountenance such proceedings? Their declining to do so was not less a justification of the remonstrance of the French government upon this subject, than a ground of suspicion to this country as to the disposition of his majesty's ministers. These observations he thought a sufficient reply to the arguments andvanced by the learned judge on the ministeral bench. With respect to the animated observations of an illustrious personage who spoke early in the debate, they had his heartfelt approbation; he perfectly agreed with his royal highness that we were not in that state in which we were to consider merely the justice or expediency of the war, but whether this country should continue to enjoy that independence which belonged to her, or whether she should submit to the absolute dictation of a French ambassador; but he could not accede to the proposition of a noble viscount, that Malta alone would have been a rational ground for war, because, if that island had been completely ceded to us, it would have afforded a degree of security infinitely short of what we had a right to expect, and what it became necessary for us now to seek. The objects for which we had to contend, were of a wider and more important nature. Our jealousy and alarm were excited by that incorrigible spirit of encroachment and ambition, which not only the first consul, but in fact all the persons connected with the government of France had for some time manifested; and even if Malta were actually in our hands in perpetuity, we should not sit down contented until some further security should be obtained. Of this the nation ought to be aware. If the list of injuries and manifestations of design contained in the papers on the table were to be attended to, certainly Malta afforded but one means of our safety. It would, to be sure, contribute to the protection of Egypt, and through that of our Indian empire; but was that the only point in which we were vulnerable? Were not the states of Holland, Piedmont and Switzerland just subjects of our solicitude? It was well observed that the power of France was the more formidable, because it was condensed; but it was not therefore to be concluded that the connection was not to be broken, and the idea was not to be entertained that that power was not to be overcome. It was not less absurd than impolitic to propagate such an opinion. The fact was, that from the present state of this country, there was no option; either the attempt to reduce that power must be made, or the nation must fall down to the most abject and degrading submission. The main object of the war, if it be either popular or politic, must be to restrain the arrogance, to reduce the preponderance of the French government; and until that object be obtained, the war should not be abandoned; until France shall not be capable of endangering our existence, whatever may be the disposition of her government to injure us. Such ought to be the object of war, and so it ought to be defined to the country. In such a cause, he was confident there was not a man in the British empire, who thought justly, and felt like an Englishman, who would not devote his best exertions. The people should be told that the possession of Malta would not be sufficient to satisfy the views of government; that much more was fought for; the material point was to diminish the continental power of France, where he contended she was vulnerable; for whatever noble lords might say of her extent, he would beg the house to consider the nature of the strange combination of particles which formed that extent, and it would cease to be thought an object of such terrific magnitude. It was in fact, quite competent to G. Britain with the resources, spirit and population she possessed, to bring this overgrown authority within reasonable bounds; but it must be done by vigorous efforts, by a short and decisive war, not by petty attempts with respect to Malta, or any comparative inferior object, or by any colonial expeditions, calculated to cramp the energy and waste the strength of the country, but by a bold and extensive exertion.—If this plan were not pursued, he was sure that the means of war would be exhausted without producing any of the advantages we had a right to look for, and therefore if it were not determined on, it would be better that we should at once submit. However much he deprecated the thought of unmanly submission, he would say that unless the contest were commenced with resolution, and followed up with dignified intrepidity and promptitude, the country would meet its fate, and it would then be stated with justice that the pusillanimous would have no right to complain of adverse fortune and no claim to pity in their humiliation. He exhorted ministers to study the best means of rendering the war of the nature he described. Let it not be a protracted, balanced war. They had for the last year a deficiency of four millions in what they called a peace establishment, and if to that deficit was to be added the expence to be incurred in the future establishment of Malta, if annexed to this country, he would say that it was utterly impossible the country could go on with such a deficit. A vigorous war that should terminate the state which subject the country to such increased expenditure would be much more preferable, for such a course must tend to ruin. This was the sentiment of an illustrious personage who had spoken in the course of the debate, and who had delivered his opinion in such a strain as must have considerable influence on the feelings of the country. That effect, so desirable in the present crisis, a person of still higher rank would have contributed his sentiment to produce (we understood the noble lord to allude to the prince of Wales,) if a peculiar delicacy had not restrained his royal highness from interfering, lest his interference should have had any undue influence on the minds of their lordships upon a subject in which the most unbiassed and deliberate consideration was so material.

Recurring to the hostile disposition of the French government towards this country the noble lord remarked, that before any papers at present on the table had ever appeared, his mind was impressed with the fullest conviction upon that point. Even before the treaty of Amiens was signed he was of that opinion, and therefore in the course of the discussions respecting it, he declined to give any opinion respecting it; because, however, little he expected that it would tend to produce the actual blessings of peace, he could not permit himself to offer any thing to damp the satisfaction which prevailed among the people on the conclusion of that treaty. It however appeared to him not only on the day ministers executed the treaty, but before and immediately after. Into this question he would not now enter, particularly as he understood that the penetration and conduct of ministers, in this and other instances, was to be made the subject of consideration on a future day. The noble lord again urged the necessity of endeavoring to render the war of short duration, and this was not possible, unless the minds and the resources of the nation were vigorously and judiciously exerted; unless an appeal were made to the souls of the people. Whatever might be the difference of opinion as to the system of his Majesty's ministers, it must naturally be the ardent wish of every noble lord that Britons should rise triumphant from the contest. The house would recollect that the resources of the country were amply adequate to every purpose, if applied with judgement. It would also be recollected, that though the power of our enemy was immense in point of size, it was composed of very discordant parts. If the country was to be engaged in war, it ought to receive a constant assurance that it did not go into it merely for colonial purpose, for petty contests, but for great national interests. Such ought to be the general feeling and the house should bear in mind this important fact, that if the present war be misconducted, one consolation only will remain, that we shall not have another war to conduct.

Earl Spencer still persevered in the propriety of considering as he had done in the last day's debate, the conduct of ministers as one question, and the case of the country as another, and therefore wishing to keep the question entirely separate, he did not wish to postpone it. Their lordships were now called upon to give their best judgements, whether it ought to be peace or war. The first point for consideration in this question was, whether the war was just and necessary, or not. He was certain, from the papers before the house, that the country had a good cause and there was extreme difference between a defence of the conduct of ministers, and a defence of the country. The cause of the country rested on good grounds he was sure. He would not detain their lordships by repeating the points which had been stated more folly and ably by the noble lords who had gone before him. From the opinion he had of the treaty of Amiens, and particularly of the tenth article, he tho't it would be very difficult to carry it into effect. He would not positively maintain that the article ought not to be executed, but he always apprehended it could not from the uncertain nature of the article, and from other considerations. It was stated that ministers had forborne much in the course of the discussion that had arisen, if not in consequence of the treaty, at least subsequent to it. He would give his support to the original motion, rather than to the amendment. A good deal had been said of the nature of the war into which we had entered, and of the finances of the country to meet it. It was in vain to dissemble the difficulties with which such a war must be attended. It was better that the country should be taught to estimate these difficulties fairly, and to meet them boldly; that we should look to our finances and to our forces, calculate our means, and consider the most efficacious mode of applying them. He trusted their lordships would exercise their constitutional rights in directing the application of the resources of country to the best measures.

The Earl of Warwick thought the question now before their lordships was, whether the papers on their table contained a sufficient ground for war. He was himself of opinion that any one of the reasons that may be deduced from them, constituted a just ground; and trusted there would be but one heart and one arm in these countries, in a contest in defence of every thing dear and valuable to the inhabitant.

The marquis of Sligo believed the provocation given by the First Consul of France to this country too great to be submitted to, and the war of course unavoidable. He trusted that the most vigorous, measures would be adopted, and the contest brought to a speedy and decisive issue.—As to the island of Malta, he hoped the possession of it would never be suffered to pass out of the hands of the English.

Lord Darnly said, he hoped that the house and the country would urge the necessity of making use of every means to preserve peace, notwithstanding the pappearance of the hostile state of the two countries. From one of the last letters sent to this government he had reason to think that the door was not yet shut to peace; but something might now be done on our part to bring about that blessing which would be felt by every man in the kingdom. And if every means on our part to continue peace should prove ineffectual, it was his wish that the war should be conducted with spirit and energy.

Lord Gwyder spoke nearly to the same effect. He said he thought the amendment proposed contained more spirit than the address; and it was his opinion from the papers he had read, that hopes still remained to bring about a good understanding between the two countries; he said he should use the words of the last noble lord, that the door of peace was not yet shut, he therefore hoped their lordships would adopt every measure consistent with the honor and safety of the nation, to preserve peace to the country.

The house then divided on the amendment.

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The original question was then put and carried.

Gloucester, Dec. 17, 1801.

SIR,

I received your long, respectful and kind favor of the 10th inst. and will give you the information you required, tho' I cannot descend into all the minutia of the case.—Mrs. Forbes six years ago was troubled with a small schirrus substance, in the center of her left breast, attended with stabbing pains, which from the first became progressive, in bigness, in hardness and painfulness. In about 20 months the whole glandulous parts of the breast became indurated and an ulcer formed on the nipple. We made use of the Sicuta* but externally by way of poultice, made of leaves, and internally by pills made of the juice, this method we pursued for a year without any other effect, than the keeping it sweet, and abated the ichorous discharge, the ulcer enlarged, her health gave way, and her spirits sunk, and a symptomatic fever came on, we then sought other help, went to Boston, consulted Doctors Loyd, Warren and Jefferies; they all pronounced it a fixed and incurable cancer, but were of opinion, that it might be removed by the knife with a high probability of obtaining a cure this way but in no other. She consented to the operation. Doctor Warren operated, assisted by Doctors Loyd and Jefferies, it was well done and with dexterity. The substance removed weighed 6 ounces and 1-2, and as it was local and did not adhere to the pectoral muscles, the prospect was as promising as any they had seen, the wound soon healed up to all appearance sound, yet she felt the former pains, stabbing, crackling and bubbling like the boiling of hasty pudding as she expressed.—Yet we hoped that the circulating fluids being obstructed, might occasion such sensations. But we soon found a new schirrus forming and became fixed and increasing, and in about 20 months there was a small opening in the old scar, and discharged a few drops of ichor, in 24 hours we applied dry lint with the most lenient dressings we could get but we could not stop its progress, though at first it was not rapid. In June it first appeared an open ulcer not bigger than a kernel of wheat, and on the next January which was the last, it was about half an inch long and 1-4 deep, but from this time it put on a very formidable appearance, it became turgid and schirrus all round, and the flesh gave way on every side, and by the first of March the cavity was near as big as a common tea cup, the whole cavity was covered with a thick coat of morbid matter, the discharge was very copious ichorous, and fetid to a high degree, attended with very excruciating pains. Nature gave way; a symptomatic fever took place, her appetite entirely left her, the coats of her stomach were affected, a violent vomiting ensued, which soon reduced her to that degree, that she could not stand alone; life, stood trembling on the brink, and death was contemplated by her and her friends as her only relief. A friend of mine, a celebrated physician of Newport, Doct. Micajah Sawyer, sent me word that he wished that I would use the dock root, and give it a fair trial, next day the 9th of March we made application, and very soon a most salutary effect took place, her pains abated, her fever subsided, her appetite began to return, and in about ten days its countenance was materially altered, the discharge was not so copious, less ichorous and fetid, of the color and consistence of cream; at the next dressing it ceased, a well digested pus took place, and the thick morbid coat began to break up, and in 3 weeks the whole digested off, and the ulcer became clean and sweet as a fresh wound and began to heal; a good appearance, took place on every side, though it was deep to the ribs, and large as a common tea cup, and would have held as much the 20th of March, yet by the last of May a pistareen would have covered it, and the cavity would not hold more than a tea-spoon. Her pains were gone, her appetite good, her sleep undisturbed, and her strength restored that she could walk from room to room, ride out on pleasant days and attend her domestic concerns, and the prospect was a speedy perfect cure.

But the dock root began to fail, by the first of June it became hard and sticky and would yield no pulp, which could be formed to the consistency of a soft poultice, and when applied did rather irritate than soothe the sore—we laid it aside, had recourse again to dry lint and the common lenient dressings, and the sore became stationary, and remained so to the present time.

On the 1st of October the dock root recovered its former state, we resumed the application, in a measure without any other effect than that it keeps it clean and sweet and corrects the discharge, which continues to be a thick and well digested pus, but refuses to close or cicatrize; the cancer seems to be subdued and removed, all the indurated parts are become soft and natural, the sore puts on the appearance of a schrophula, and it may prove a salutary drain which may not shorten life, nor render it less comfortable, though we wish to see it close, and if you think of any thing, which will be likely to quicken, strengthen and heal, I wish you would communicate the same by the first opportunity. Thus, Sir, I have given you as particular an account as I at present can, and am with esteem and affection.

Your friend and servant,

ELI FORBES.

DR. HALL. Copy.

The mode of application.

P. S. It is the narrow pointed leaf, that which many people make use of for greens in the spring, we take it from the ground and wash it clean, then boil it in iron, tin or earthern, in rain or soft spring water till it is soft, then wash or bruise it fine for a poultice, while this is preparing, we wash or bathe the ulcer with the decoction of the root as warm as the patient can bear, we filled the cavity with the liquor, and let it remain till it became cool, then we laid on the poultice spread upon gauze, with the gauze next to the sore, as large as would fill the cavity, then we spread another poultice on

* Sicuta known in Medicine by the name of Hemlock.