



Edinburgh Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

FROM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, to FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1807.

DECLARATION.

The declaration issued at St. Petersburg, by his Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, has excited in his Majesty's mind the strongest sensations of astonishment and regret.

His Majesty was not unaware of the nature of those secret engagements which had been imposed upon Russia in the conferences of Tilsit. But his Majesty had entertained the hope, that a review of the transactions of that unfortunate negotiation, and a just estimate of its effects upon the glory of the Russian name, and upon the interests of the Russian empire, would have induced his Imperial Majesty to extricate himself from the embarrassment of those new counsels and connections which he had adopted in a moment of despondency and alarm, and to return to a policy more congenial to the principles which he has so invariably professed, and more conducive to the honour of his crown, and to the prosperity of his dominions.

This hope has dictated to his Majesty the utmost forbearance and moderation in all his diplomatic intercourse with the Court of St. Petersburg since the peace of Tilsit.

His Majesty had much cause for suspicion, and just ground of complaint. But he abstained from the language of reproach. His Majesty deemed it necessary to require specific explanation with respect to those arrangements with France, the concealment of which from his Majesty could not but confirm the impression already received of their character and tendency. But his Majesty, nevertheless, directed the demand of that explanation to be made, not only without asperity or the indication of any hostile disposition, but with that considerate regard to the feelings and situation of the Emperor of Russia, which resulted from the recollection of former friendship, and from confidence interrupted but not destroyed.

The declaration of the Emperor of Russia proves that the object of his Majesty's forbearance and moderation has not been attained. It proves, unhappily, that the influence of that power, which is equally and essentially the enemy both of Great Britain and Russia, has acquired a decided ascendancy in the Councils and the cabinet of St. Petersburg; and has been able to excite a causeless enmity between two nations, whose long established connection, and whose mutual interests, prescribed the most intimate union and co-operation.

His Majesty deeply laments the extension of the calamities of war. But called upon as he is, to defend himself against an act of unprovoked hostility, his Majesty is anxious to refute in the face of the world the pretexts by which that act is attempted to be justified.

The declaration asserts that his Majesty the Emperor of Russia, has twice taken up arms in a cause in which the interest of Great Britain was more direct than his own; and founds upon this assertion the charge against Great Britain of having neglected to second and support the military operations of Russia.

His Majesty willingly does justice to the motives which originally engaged Russia in the great struggle against France. His Majesty avows with equal readiness the interest which Great Britain has uniformly taken in the fates and fortunes of the powers of the continent. But it would surely be difficult to prove that Great Britain, who was herself in a state of hostility with Prussia when the war broke out between Prussia and France, had an interest and duty more direct in espousing the Prussian quarrel than the Emperor of Russia, the ally of his Prussian Majesty, the protector of the north of Europe, and guarantee of the Germanic constitution.

It is not in a public declaration that his Ma-

jesty can discuss the policy of having at any particular period of the war effected, or admitted to effect, disembarkations of troops on the coasts of Naples. But the instance of the war with the Porte is still more singularly chosen to illustrate the charge against Great Britain of indifference to the interests of her ally: a war undertaken by Great Britain at the instigation of Russia; and solely for the purpose of maintaining Russian interests against the influence of France.

If, however, the peace of Tilsit is indeed to be considered as the consequence and the punishment of the imputed inactivity of Great Britain, his Majesty cannot but regret that the Emperor of Russia should have resorted to so precipitate and fatal a measure, at the moment when he had received distinct assurances that his Majesty was making the most strenuous exertions to fulfil the wishes and expectations of his ally (assurances which his Imperial Majesty received and acknowledged with apparent confidence and satisfaction); and when his Majesty was, in fact, prepared to employ for the advancement of the common objects of the war, those forces which, after the peace of Tilsit, he was under the necessity of employing to disconcert a combination directed against his own immediate interests and security.

The vexation of Russian commerce by Great Britain is, in truth, little more than an imaginary grievance. Upon a diligent examination, made by his Majesty's command, of the records of the British Court of Admiralty, there has been discovered only a solitary instance, in the course of the present war, of the condemnation of a vessel really Russian: a vessel which had carried naval stores to a port of the common enemy. There are but few instances of Russian vessels detained; and none in which justice has been refused to a party regularly complaining

Price Sixpence.

