

When His Majesty had first Reason to believe that such a Convention was concluded, He directed His Minister at Madrid to declare that His forbearing to consider Spain as an Enemy must depend in some Degree upon the Amount of the Succours, and upon her maintaining a perfect Neutrality in all other Respects; but that it would be impossible for him to consider a permanent Payment; to the Amount of that which was stated to have been in Agitation, in any other Light than as a direct Subsidy of War. His Majesty's Envoy was directed, therefore, first to protest against the Convention, as a Violation of Neutrality, and a justifiable Cause of War; secondly, to declare, that our abstaining from Hostilities must depend upon its being only a temporary Measure, and that we must be at liberty to consider a Perseverance in it as a Cause of War; thirdly, that the Entrance of any French Troops into Spain must be refused; fourthly, that any Naval Preparation must be a great Cause of Jealousy, and any Attempt to give Naval Assistance to France an immediate Cause of War; fifthly, that the Spanish Ports must remain open to our Commerce, and that our Ships of War must have equal Treatment with those of France. His Majesty's Minister was also instructed, if any French Troops entered Spain, or if he received authentic Information of any Naval Armaments preparing for the Assistance of France, to leave Madrid, and to give immediate Notice to our Naval Commanders, that they might proceed to Hostilities without the Delay that might be occasioned by a Reference Home.

The Execution of these Instructions produced a Variety of Discussions; during which His Majesty's Minister told Mr. Cevallos, in answer to his Question, Whether a Continuance of such pecuniary Succours to France would be considered as a Ground of War, and whether he was authorized to declare it? that he was so authorized, and that War would be the infallible Consequence.

It was, however, still thought desirable by His Majesty to protract, if possible, the Decision of this Question; and it was therefore stated in the Instructions to His Minister at Madrid, that as the Subsidy was represented by the Spanish Government to be merely a temporary Measure, His Majesty might still continue to overlook it for a Time; but that His Decision in this Respect must depend upon knowing the precise Nature of all the Stipulations between Spain and France, and upon the Spanish Government being determined to cause their Neutrality to be respected in all other Particulars. That until these Questions were answered in a satisfactory Manner, and the Convention communicated to Him, He could give no positive Answer whether He would make the pecuniary Succours a Cause of War or not.

Before the Receipt of these Instructions, dated January 21, 1804, the Report of some Naval Ar-

maments in the Ports of Spain had occasioned a fresh Correspondence between His Majesty's Minister and the Spanish Government. In one of the Notes presented by the former, he declares, that if the King was forced to begin a War, he would want no other Declaration than what he had already made. The Answers of the Spanish Government were at first of an evasive Nature; His Majesty's Minister closed the Correspondence on his Part by a Note delivered on the Eighteenth of February, in which he declares that all further Forbearance on the Part of England must depend upon the Cessation of all Naval Armaments, and a Prohibition of the Sale of Prizes in their Ports: and unless these Points were agreed to without Modification, he had Orders to leave Madrid. On the Second of these Points a satisfactory Answer was given, and Orders issued accordingly; on the First, a Reference was made to former Declarations. To the Question about disclosing the Treaty with France no satisfactory Answer was ever given. As however no Naval Preparations appeared to be proceeding at that Period in the Ports of Spain, the Matter was allowed to remain there for a Time.

In the Month of July One thousand eight hundred and four, the Government of Spain gave Assurances of faithful and settled Neutrality, and disavowed any Orders to arm in their Ports; yet, in the subsequent Month, when these Assurances were recent, and a confident Reliance reposed in them, the British Chargé d'Affaires received Advices from the Admiral commanding His Majesty's Ships off the Port of Ferrol, that Reinforcements of Soldiers and Sailors had arrived through Spain for the French Fleets at Toulon and Ferrol. On this Intelligence Two Notes were presented to the Spanish Ministers, but no Answer was received to either of them. Towards the End of the Month of September, Information was received in London from the British Admiral stationed off Ferrol, that Orders had actually been given, by the Court of Madrid, for arming, without Loss of Time, at that Port, Four Ships of the Line, Two Frigates, and other smaller Vessels; that (according to his Intelligence) similar Orders had been given at Carthagena and Cadiz, and particularly that Three First Rate Ships of the Line were directed to sail from the last mentioned Port; and, as an additional Proof of hostile Intentions, that Orders had been given to arm the Pacquets as in Time of War.

Here then appeared a direct and unequivocal Violation of the Terms on which the Continuance of Peace had been acquiesced in; previous Notice having been given to the Spanish Government, that a State of War would be the immediate Consequence of such a Measure, His Majesty on this Event stood almost pledged to an instant Commencement of Hostilities; the King, however, preferred a persevering Adherence to the System of Moderation