

neutral Hamburg. And, Holstein once occupied, the Island of Zealand was at the Mercy of France, and the Navy of Denmark at her Disposal.

It is true, a British Force might have found its Way into the Baltic, and checked for a Time the Movements of the Danish Marine. But the Season was approaching when that Precaution would no longer have availed; and when His Majesty's Fleet must have retired from that Sea, and permitted France, in undisturbed Security, to accumulate the Means of Offence against His Majesty's Dominions.

Yet even under these Circumstances, in calling upon Denmark for the Satisfaction and Security which His Majesty was compelled to require, and in demanding the only Pledge by which that Security could be rendered effectual—the temporary Possession of that Fleet, which was the chief Inducement to France for forcing Denmark into Hostilities with Great Britain—His Majesty accompanied this Demand with the Offer of every Condition which could tend to reconcile it to the Interests and to the Feelings of the Court of Denmark.

It was for Denmark herself to state the Terms and Stipulations which she might require.

If Denmark was apprehensive that the Surrender of her Fleet would be resented by France as an Act of Connivance, His Majesty had prepared a Force of such formidable Magnitude as must have made Concession justifiable even in the Estimation of France, by rendering Resistance altogether unavailing.

If Denmark was really prepared to resist the Demands of France, and to maintain her Independence, His Majesty proffered His Co-operation for her Defence—naval, military, and pecuniary Aid; the Guarantee of her European Territories, and the Security and Extension of her Colonial Possessions.

That the Sword has been drawn in the Execution of a Service indispensable to the Safety of His Majesty's Dominions, is Matter of sincere and painful Regret to His Majesty. That the State and Circumstances of the World are such as to have required and justified the Measures of Self-preservation, to which His Majesty has found himself under the Necessity of resorting, is a Truth which His Majesty deeply deplures, but for which he is in no Degree responsible.

His Majesty has long-carried on a most unequal Contest of scrupulous Forbearance against unrelenting Violence and Oppression. But that Forbearance has its Bounds. When the Design was openly avowed, and already but too far advanced towards its Accomplishment, of subjecting the Powers of

Europe to one universal Usurpation, and of combining them by Terror or by Force in a Confederacy against the maritime Rights and political Existence of this Kingdom, it became necessary for His Majesty to anticipate the Success of a System, not more fatal to His Interests than to those of the Powers who were destined to be the Instruments of its Execution.

It was Time that the Effects of that Dread which France has inspired into the Nations of the World should be counteracted by an Exertion of the Power of Great Britain, called for by the Exigency of the Crisis, and proportioned to the Magnitude of the Danger.

Notwithstanding the Declaration of War on the Part of the Danish Government, it still remains for Denmark to determine whether War shall continue between the Two Nations. His Majesty still proffers an amicable Arrangement. He is anxious to sheathe the Sword, which he has been most reluctantly compelled to draw. And He is ready to demonstrate to Denmark and to the World, that, having acted solely upon the Sense of what was due to the Security of His own Dominions, He is not desirous, from any other Motive, or for any Object of Advantage or Aggrandisement, to carry Measures of Hostility beyond the Limits of the Necessity which has produced them.

Westminster, Sept. 25, 1807.

Admiralty-Office, September 28, 1807.

Copy of a Letter from Admiral the Right Honourable Lord Gardner to the Honourable W. W. Pole, dated on board His Majesty's Ship Ville de Paris, Torbay, September 25, 1807.

SIR,

I DESIRE you will be pleased to lay before their Lordships the inclosed Copy of a Letter which I received this Day from Captain Charles Malcolm, of the *Narcissus*, giving an Account of the Capture by that Ship, on the 11th Instant, of the Spanish Letter of Marque Brig *Avantura*.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GARDNER.

*His Majesty's Ship Narcissus, at Sea,
September 11, 1807.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the Honour to inform your Lordship, that this Morning I fell in with and captured the Spanish Letter of Marque Brig *Avantura*, after a Four Hours' Chace with Sweeps, it being nearly calm. She is a beautiful coppered Vessel, of One Hundred and Forty Tons, pierced for Eighteen Guns, but carrying only Ten, and Forty-three Men; appears well calculated for His Majesty's Service. She is Six Days from Bilboa bound to the Caraccas; she sails very fast.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

CHAS. MALCOLM.

*The Right Honourable Lord Gardner,
&c. &c. &c.*