

whatever was wanting in it, if any Thing could be wanting to convince the most incredulous of the Urgency of that Necessity under which His Majesty acted.

But until the Russian Declaration was published, His Majesty had no Reason to suspect that any Opinions which the Emperor of Russia might entertain of the Transactions at Copenhagen could be such as to preclude His Imperial Majesty from undertaking, at the Request of Great Britain, that same Office of Mediator, which He had assumed with so much Alacrity on the Behalf of France. Nor can His Majesty forget that the first Symptoms of reviving Confidence, since the Peace of Tillit, the only Prospect of Success in the Endeavours of His Majesty's Ambassador to restore the ancient good Understanding between Great Britain and Russia, appeared when the Intelligence of the Siege of Copenhagen had been recently received at St. Peterburgh.

The Inviolability of the Baltick Sea, and the reciprocal Guaranties of the Powers that border upon it, Guaranties said to have been contracted with the Knowledge of the British Government, are stated as Aggravations of His Majesty's Proceedings in the Baltick. It cannot be intended to represent His Majesty as having at any Time acquiesced in the Principles upon which the Inviolability of the Baltick is maintained; however His Majesty may, at particular Periods, have forborne, for special Reasons influencing His Conduct at the Time, to act in Contradiction to them. Such Forbearance never could have applied but to a State of Peace and real Neutrality in the North; and His Majesty most assuredly could not be expected to recur to it, after France has been suffered to establish Herself in undisputed Sovereignty along the whole Coast of the Baltick Sea, from Dantzic to Lubeck.

But the higher the Value which the Emperor of Russia places on the Engagements respecting the Tranquillity of the Baltick, which He describes Himself as inheriting from His immediate Predecessors, the Empress Catherine and the Emperor Paul, the less justly can His Imperial Majesty resent the Appeal made to Him by His Majesty as the Guarantee of the Peace to be concluded between Great Britain and Denmark. In making that Appeal, with the utmost Confidence and Sincerity, His Majesty neither intended, nor can He imagine that He offered, any Insult to the Emperor of Russia. Nor can His Majesty conceive that, in proposing to the Prince Royal Terms of Peace, such as the most successful War on the Part of Denmark could hardly have been expected to extort from Great Britain, His Majesty rendered himself liable to the Imputation, either of exasperating the Resentment, or of outraging the Dignity, of Denmark.

His Majesty has thus replied to all the different Accusations by which the Russian Government labours to justify the Rupture of a Connection which has subsisted for Ages, with reciprocal Advantage to Great Britain and Russia; and attempts to disguise the Operation of that external Influence by which Russia is driven into unjust Hostilities for Interests not her own.

The Russian Declaration proceeds to announce the several Conditions on which alone these Hostili-

ties can be terminated, and the Intercourse of the Two Countries renewed.

His Majesty has already had Occasion to assert, that Justice has in no Instance been denied to the Claims of His Imperial Majesty's Subjects.

The Termination of the War with Denmark has been so anxiously sought by His Majesty, that it cannot be necessary for His Majesty to renew any Professions upon that Subject. But His Majesty is at a Loss to reconcile the Emperor of Russia's present Anxiety for the Completion of such an Arrangement, with His Imperial Majesty's recent Refusal to contribute His good Offices for effecting it.

The Requisition of His Imperial Majesty for the immediate Conclusion, by His Majesty, of a Peace with France, is as extraordinary in the Substance, as it is offensive in the Manner. His Majesty has at no Time declined to treat with France, when France has professed a Willingness to treat on an admissible Basis. And the Emperor of Russia cannot fail to remember that the last Negotiation between Great Britain and France was broken off, upon Points immediately affecting, not His Majesty's own Interests, but those of His Imperial Ally. But His Majesty neither understands, nor will He admit, the Pretension of the Emperor of Russia to dictate the Time, or the Mode, of His Majesty's pacifick Negotiations with other Powers. It never will be endured by His Majesty that any Government shall indemnify Itself for the Humiliation of Subserviency to France, by the Adoption of an insulting and peremptory Tone towards Great Britain.

His Majesty proclaims anew those Principles of Maritime Law, against which the Armed Neutrality, under the Auspices of the Empress Catherine, was originally directed; and against which the present Hostilities of Russia are denounced. Those Principles have been recognized and acted upon in the best Periods of the History of Europe: and acted upon by no Power with more Strictness and Severity than by Russia Herself in the Reign of the Empress Catherine.

Those Principles it is the Right and the Duty of His Majesty to maintain: And against every Confederacy His Majesty is determined, under the Blessing of Divine Providence, to maintain them. They have at all Times contributed essentially to the Support of the Maritime Power of Great Britain; but they are become incalculably more valuable and important at a Period when the Maritime Power of Great Britain constitutes the sole remaining Bulwark against the overwhelming Usurpations of France; the only Refuge to which other Nations may yet resort, in happier Times, for Assistance and Protection.

When the Opportunity for Peace between Great Britain and Russia shall arrive, His Majesty will embrace it with Eagerness. The Arrangements of such a Negotiation will not be difficult or complicated. His Majesty, as He has nothing to concede, so He has nothing to require: Satisfied, if Russia shall manifest a Disposition to return to Her ancient Feelings of Friendship towards Great Britain; to a just Consideration of Her own true Interests; and to a Sense of Her own Dignity as an Independent Nation.

*Wesminster, December 18, 1807.*