

of two days, and the success which the French obtained decided the fate of the remainder of the campaign. Charleroi fell; and general Moreau, after defeating Clairfait, made himself master of Ypres. Bruges submitted to the French arms on the 24th of June. The garrison of Ostend being withdrawn, the French entered it, and were received with joy. It was now manifest through the whole of their invasion of the Belgic provinces, that the recollection of the Austrian tyranny had disposed the people in general readily to admit a change of masters. This was especially observable at Brussels, which the prince of Saxe Cobourg in vain attempted to cover by strong intrenchments in the forest of Soignies. He was driven from them with great loss; and the Austrians, taking flight through Brussels in the night, left the capital open to their pursuers, who, on the 9th of July, entered it in triumph. Ghent had opened its gates on the fifth of that month. The duke of York and lord Moira, after taking shelter in Mechlin, evacuated the place and proceeded to Antwerp. The French, now advancing from Brussels, marched against general Clairfait, who was protecting Louvain, and having defeated him, obtained possession of that city on the 15th of July. Antwerp surrendered undefended on the 23d; and thus the whole of Austrian Flanders and Brabant fell under the dominion of the French. The strong city and citadel of Namur were evacuated by general Beaulieu on the 17th, and the Austrians were soon after driven from Liege and its territory.

The campaign on the frontiers of Germany was not less successful to the French republic than had been that in the Netherlands. It began with the reduction of Kaiserslautern and Spire, with other fortresses in that quarter. An obstinate engagement took place on the 12th of July, which continued through the following day, between the French and Prussians, and ended in the defeat of the latter. Two subsequent days of fighting obliged the Austrians and Prussians to retreat towards Mentz; and on the 8th of August the French army on the Moselle took possession of Treves. Their next object was to recover those towns within the limits of France which had been taken by the allies: and Landrecies, Quesnoy, Valenciennes, and Condé were brought to capitulate after a slender resistance, the garrisons being threatened with military execution if they persisted in defending them. In all these places immense stores of ammunition and provisions were found.

The emperor of Germany had, by this time, acquired sufficient experience of military life, and became weary of the scenes around him. Leaving the command of his army, therefore, to the prince of Saxe Cobourg, he returned to Vienna. The disastrous close of the last campaign had occasioned a coolness between the courts of Vienna and Berlin, which soon kindled into animosity. The duke of Brunswick resigned his command, and the king of Prussia began to think of withdrawing from the coalition. The duke had represented to his majesty, that the want of concord and the spirit of distrust had disconcerted all the measures of the allies. "When a great nation," said his serene highness, "such as that of France, conducts its affairs by the terror of punishments, and the energy of enthusiasm, the combined powers ought to be guided by only one sentiment and one principle: but if, instead of co-operating with this unanimity, each army acts separately and without concerting with the others, without fixed plans, without concord, and without principle, the consequences to be expected are such as we have seen at Dunkirk, at Maubeuge, at the capture of Lyons, at the destruction of Toulon, and at the siege of Landau. May heaven preserve your majesty from great misfortunes! But every thing is to be dreaded unless constancy, harmony, and uniformity of principles and actions, assume the place of opposing sentiments, which during the last two years have occasioned so many calamities. The same causes which have divided the allied powers divide them still. The movements of the armies will again suffer as they have suffered; they will experience delay and embarrassments. Time will be necessary to recruit the Prussian army; policy absolutely requires it. These delays will perhaps prove the source of a train of misfortunes in the ensuing campaign, the consequences of which are incalculable."

This letter, which was addressed to his Prussian majesty from Oppenheim on the 6th of January, 1794, expressed in energetic terms the opinion which the duke of Brunswick now entertained of the hopeless issue of the war. The writer of it was not only a consummate general, but a conspicuous actor in the important transactions of the times: and his letter exhibits a more correct view of the state of affairs at that period, than volumes of conjectural history compiled in the closet would supply. The fact is that distrust and jealousy prevailed, not only between the Prussian and Austrian armies, but also between their cabinets. The emperor represented to the princes of the Germanic states the dangers that impended over them; and he invited the circles to rise in a mass against an enemy who every where wished to destroy royalty, nobility, religion, and property: in a word, to trample on every law divine and human; and he peremptorily required that such of the states as had not yet contributed to the common defence should furnish the triple contingent. The demand, however, was ill received: Austria and Prussia were suspected of entertaining the design of dismembering France: and the probable aggrandizement of these two great powers excited the jealousy of the weaker states, to whom war presented much danger without the prospect of indemnity. The king of Prussia opposed the *levee-en-masse* on the frontier, which he represented to be not only ruinous to agriculture, but also as a dangerous measure in the midst of that agitation which French principles had created in the minds of the multitude.

It was not long, however, before Frederick William began more manifestly to show his remissness in the common cause of opposing French democracy. After declaring his inability to sustain the enormous expenses of the war, he announced his determination to furnish no more troops than his contingent as elector of Brandenburg required; and he ordered general Mollendorf, who had succeeded the duke of Brunswick, to retire with his army towards Cologne, leaving only twenty thousand men in the neighbourhood of Mentz, under the command of general Kalkreuth. It was to prevent the defection of so powerful a body from the confederacy, that the British parliament voted the sum of two millions and a half, as a subsidy to his Prussian majesty, as mentioned in the former part of this letter, in order that he might be enabled to continue the war. About the same time a treaty was concluded with the king of Sardinia, who was to receive from Great Britain two hundred thousand pounds per annum. The landgrave of Hesse Cassel was also to furnish eight thousand men, in return for which England agreed to pay one hundred thousand pounds for levy money, fifty-six thousand pounds per annum, and a certain stipulated sum for every Hessian soldier that should be slain!

The king of Prussia, notwithstanding the subsidy which he received from England, kept his armies on the borders of the Rhine, without joining the allies. In the month of May, marshal Mollendorf surprised the French, and defeated them with considerable loss. On the 16th of July, the French having received strong reinforcements from the armies of the Alps and the Ardennes, as well as enormous augmentations from the requisitions in Lorraine and Alsace, attempted to force the Prussian lines at Edickoffern, having previously cut off all communication between them and the Austrians. Being repulsed with great loss, they renewed their efforts at two o'clock the following morning; and after seven successive attacks, they succeeded in forcing the Prussian lines, with a terrible carnage on both sides. These were the last transactions of any moment that took place between the Prussians and the French during the revolutionary war.

The success which had attended the armies of France in the Netherlands, during the spring and summer of 1794, now began to excite a general apprehension for the safety of the United Provinces. Flanders was considered to be irretrievably lost; and the duke of York proposed to the prince of Saxe Cobourg to make a joint attack on the enemy for the preservation of Brabant. The Austrian general, however, declined the proposal, and Belgium was left entirely to the French, who immediately put all the young men that were

fourteen millions, and the number of parishes being about ten thousand, not fewer than thirty-five thousand able seamen and landsmen were procured by this measure, certainly the easiest and most expeditious that ever had been devised for manning the navy.

But while England and Austria were busily employed in making immense preparations for a vigorous campaign, the chain of the coalition was broken by the defection of Prussia, which was soon followed by that of Spain and the landgrave of Hesse Cassel. During the preceding year, Frederick William had given repeated proofs of his alienation from the common cause. Finding that he could derive no advantage from the war, he concluded a treaty of peace with France, at Basle, on the 5th of April, by which he ceded to the republic all his possessions on the left bank of the Rhine, entirely abandoning the coalition, of which he had been the chief promoter, engaging, moreover, to furnish neither succours nor contingents whatever, either as king of Prussia, or as a member of the empire. The landgrave of Hesse Cassel, following his example, withdrew his troops from the pay of Great Britain, and signed a treaty of peace, by which he ceded to France his possessions on the left bank of the Rhine, and disengaged himself from the obligation of furnishing his contingent as a prince of the empire.

On the meeting of parliament, these unpropitious circumstances were unavoidably made the subject of discussion. The conduct of the Prussian monarch was allowed by Mr. Pitt to have been highly censurable; he had fraudulently misapplied the money granted him by way of subsidy, in furthering his own unjust designs on Poland. Nevertheless, it was contended, that there was a necessity of persisting in a vigorous prosecution of the war, in despite of the reverses of the last campaign; and to do this the more effectually, it was proposed to grant the emperor of Germany a loan of four millions, thus enabling him to prosecute, with the greatest energy, a cause which both the necessity of the case, and his own ardent wishes, prompted him to. The opposition remonstrated strongly against the measure, but it was nevertheless carried by a large majority.

In the course of the year 1795, an expedition to the coast of France was planned by the British ministry, for the purpose of making a grand diversion in favour of the Austrians, and striking a blow at the heart of the republic. The design was bold, and had a sufficient number of forces been employed on the occasion, the most important results might have been expected from it; but unhappily, as in most cases of a similar kind, the object was defeated by the poverty of the means. After the terrible conflict, which in the preceding year had taken place in the province of La Vendée, the chiefs of the revolt had collected the wrecks of their armies. In Bretagne, Puissaye and others of their leaders endeavoured, at the same time, to organize the scattered bands of the Chouans, and to incorporate them with the remains of the royal and Catholic army which had crossed the Loire. A desultory warfare was for some time carried on between these fugitives and the republicans; but no event of importance occurred till about the beginning of the year, when the Vendéans, by the advice of their general, Charette, concluded with the convention a treaty sufficiently advantageous, as formerly mentioned. This pacification, however, was only partial and transient. The leaders of the royalists acted without concert; and the convention did not adhere to the terms of the treaty. Jealousy and distrust prevailed on all sides, and the flames of war burst out again in the spring of the year 1795. Charette now solicited the assistance of England, for the restoration of monarchy in France. Sombreuil, Puissaye, d'Hervilly, and many other French nobles, who had taken refuge in England, where they had collected a numerous body of emigrants, paid by the British government, were also eager to try their fortunes in their native country, and to revive the royal party in Bretagne and La Vendée.

At their solicitation a British fleet conveyed them to the French coast; and the emigrants, with some English troops, amounting in the whole to about twelve thousand men, effected a landing in Quiberon bay, where,

after the capture of a fort defended by six hundred republicans, intrenchments were thrown up and fortified by artillery. Arms were also distributed among the Chouans, who flocked in crowds to the camp. Had this expedition been supported by a powerful British force, it might have been productive of great effects, though the most favourable opportunity of distressing the republic, by seconding the enthusiastic valour of the Vendéans, while their forces were unbroken, was irrecoverably lost. But from such a heterogeneous mass as was now assembled, consisting of undisciplined Chouans, emigrant royalists of various descriptions, and republicans enlisted out of the English prisons by enterprising nobles of desperate fortunes, all eager to regain their former rank and patrimonial possessions, the issue was precisely such as common sense would dictate.

D'Hervilly, one of the most enterprising of the emigrants, attempted to penetrate into the country; but finding the Chouans incapable of steady operations, and adapted only to a desultory warfare, he was obliged to retire within the line of defence. The republicans, under general Hoche, constructed, on the heights opposite to the emigrant camp, several redoubts, which entirely cut off their communication with the land. In the night, these works were stormed by the emigrants, who failed in their attempt, and were compelled to retreat with considerable loss. But the enterprise would have been far more fatal, had the republicans not been annoyed by the fire which was kept up from the British ships in the bay. This disaster produced mutual recrimination among the officers, and desertion among the privates, of which the consequences were fatal to the expedition. The republican general, Hoche, employed deserters acquainted with all their defences to act as guides; in consequence of this stratagem, they were able to surprise the camp and fort of the emigrants, so that the whole, including Chouans and the English, were made prisoners, to the amount of ten thousand men. The gallant count de Sombreuil, the bishop of Dol, with many other ecclesiastics who had accompanied the expedition, and all the emigrant officers, were tried at a military tribunal, and executed in front of the republican army. Such was the unfortunate termination of this rash expedition: it nevertheless operated considerably to the advantage of the Austrians, who were in a great measure indebted to this diversion for their successes on the banks of the Rhine.

In reviewing the domestic occurrences of Great Britain during this year, 1795, there are several things which ought not to be passed over unnoticed. Neither the excellence of the British constitution, the mildness of his majesty's reign, nor the general prosperity of the empire, could prevent the seeds of jacobinism from putting forth their malignant shoots. A spirit of dissatisfaction and discontent had seized the minds of the populace, more especially in and about the metropolis, where the levelling societies grew daily more numerous and daring; and these discontents were heightened by a remarkable scarcity of grain which prevailed at the moment, and necessarily drew along with it an augmentation of price. The successes of the French, and the defections among the allied powers, had moreover rendered the war so hopeless, that a petition to the legislature for peace had been carried in the common hall of the city of London by a large majority, and was followed by similar petitions in several other cities and towns. The ministry and supporters of the war of course became more unpopular, and the reforming societies acted with increasing boldness. The corresponding society, as it was called, held several public meetings: one of which, in the fields near Copenhagen house, was computed to be attended by fifty thousand persons, and was remarkable for the daring spirit of the addresses made to the public.

Such was the agitated state of the public mind, when, on the 29th of October, the parliament was called together. As the king was proceeding to the house of peers through the park, the royal carriage was surrounded by a throng of persons of all ranks, who clamorously demanded "Peace, and the dismissal of Pitt from office: no war! no Pitt! down with George!"

and other expressions of similar treasonable tendency were insultingly vociferated in the ears of the monarch, as he passed, with the usual solemnity, to open the session of parliament. In the narrow pass leading from the palace-yard to the house of lords, one of the glasses of the carriage was perforated by a bullet: and, on his return, he was treated with much rudeness and indignity. Several persons were apprehended on suspicion of being concerned in this infamous outrage; and a journeyman printer, of the name of Kidd Wake, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to stand in the pillory at Gloucester, on a market-day—afterward to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for five years, at the expiration of which term he was to find security in the sum of one thousand pounds, for his behaviour for ten years.

The outrage offered to his majesty was taken into consideration by parliament, and a suitable address was voted by both houses. This was followed by a bill, introduced into the upper house by lord Grenville, “for the safety and preservation of his majesty’s person and government against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts. On the same day, Mr. Pitt, in the commons, moved, that the royal proclamations issued in consequence of the late riot should be taken into consideration; which being carried, he moved for a bill “for the prevention of seditious meetings.” These two bills had for their object the restriction of the right hitherto possessed by the people, of assembling for the purpose of petitioning the crown and the legislature, and of discussing political subjects. They were warmly opposed in each stage of their progress through both houses, and even stigmatized as violent and unnecessary encroachments on the privileges granted by the constitution, but finally passed into law, by more than the usual majorities: their duration, nevertheless, was limited to three years. The court and the minister, however, were instructed by what had taken place, to form a correct estimate of the state of public opinion on the subject of the war, and, accordingly, on the 8th of December, a message from the king was introduced to parliament, intimating that the present order of things in France was such as would induce his majesty to meet any disposition for negotiation on the part of the enemy, with an earnest desire to give it its fullest effect—an intimation which drew from the opposition side of the house, some sarcastic reflections on the futility of pretending that any change in the French government had rendered them more fit to be negotiated with at present than they were before.

The power and wealth of Great Britain being manifestly the principal object to the ambitious projects of France, it naturally became a leading topic of French policy to overthrow the foundations of her prosperity, and reduce her to the common level. A notion was industriously propagated on the continent, that England was the tyrant of the seas; and other nations were invited to make common cause against her naval domination. And as her commerce was obviously the basis of this superiority, plans were devised for throwing every possible impediment in its way: and the republic not being able to shut up the ports of the rest of Europe against her merchandise, a severe decree was issued, prohibiting its admission into any port of France or its dependencies, among which the states of Holland were now entitled to be reckoned.

About this time an envoy was despatched from England to the court of Berlin, with a view, as was supposed in France, of procuring the reunion of Prussia to the coalition, a measure which greatly incensed the directory; and its failure was regarded as the cause of the overtures that were now made by the British government to negotiate the conditions of peace. The directory, however, not choosing to appear adverse to the termination of so burdensome a war, granted the desired passports for an agent from England: and on the 23d of October, lord Malmesbury arrived at Paris in quality of negotiator, where he was received with every public demonstration of joy.

On opening his commission, lord Malmesbury proposed a mutual restitution of conquests as the fundamental basis of a treaty, and observed, that as the successes of England had placed her out of the condition of requiring

restitution for herself, whereas France had made large acquisitions from her allies, the negotiation would of course turn upon the compensations France would expect for the restitution she was to make to them. The directory replied, that the accession of other powers to a negotiation which his lordship was authorized to transact separately between Great Britain and France must necessarily retard its progress very considerably; nevertheless, they would consent upon his procuring credentials from those allies, to take into consideration any specific proposals he might have to lay before them. After much discussion on this point, lord Malmesbury was required to mention the compensations to which he had alluded, and he proposed the restitution of what had been taken from the emperor of Germany, and the restoration of the prince of Orange to the stadtholderate of the seven United Provinces; the accession of Russia to the treaty, and the including of Portugal without any indemnity demanded by France:—in return for which, Great Britain was to restore her conquests in both the Indies, receiving an equivalent, however, for the part of Hispaniola ceded by Spain to France. The directory then required from the English minister a specification of the whole of his demands, to be delivered in in four-and-twenty hours; and farther signified, that they could listen to no terms inconsistent with the constitution, and the engagements formed by the republic. On his lordship replying that their requisition precluded all farther negotiation, and that their own proposals ought to be communicated to his constituents, they told him, that his powers being inadequate to the conducting of a treaty, his residence in Paris was totally unnecessary, and abruptly ordered his lordship to quit the republic in forty-eight hours. Thus terminated the first attempt at negotiation;—an attempt so unpromising from its commencement, that it is not easy to suppose one party, at least, to have been sincere in its efforts to carry it into effect. (1)

LETTER XXVIII.

Italian Campaign—Buonaparte marches towards Italy—Battle of Monte Notte—Defeat of the Austrian General Provera—Retreat of the allied Armies—Battle of Dego or Millesimo—The French Army enters Piedmont—The King of Sardinia requests an Armistice—The French enter the Milanese Country—Death of General La Harpe—Battle of Lodi—Buonaparte enters Milan—The Pope obliged to purchase an Armistice—and the Duke of Modena—The French plunder the Country of its finest Statuary—Reflections on this Act of Spoliation. A. D. 1796.

You are now, my son, about to enter upon a narrative, which, if you can abstract the mind from all those troublesome questions of morality that are ever and anon recurring as we turn over the pages of history and pursue the annals of blood, cannot fail to excite a lively interest, if it do not fill you with astonishment. The exploits of Napoleon Buonaparte—the rapidity of his motions—his dexterity in manœuvring—his bold and undaunted courage—and the victorious career which he was destined to pursue, are perhaps unparalleled in the history of the world.

The plan of crossing the Alps and marching into Italy suited in every respect the ambitious and self-confident character of the general to whom it was now intrusted. It gave him a separate and independent authority, and the power of acting on his own judgment and responsibility; for his countryman Salicetti, the deputy who accompanied him as commissioner of the government, was not probably much disposed to intrude his opinions. He had been Buonaparte’s patron, and was still his friend. The young general’s mind was made up to the alternative of conquest or ruin, as may be

(1) New Annual Register, 1792—1796.—Dr. Aikin’s Annals of George III.—Jones’s Continuation of Goldsmith’s History of England.—Woodfall’s Debates in Parliament.—Bissett’s History of the Reign of George III.

capable of bearing arms into a state of requisition, and, calling in all the coin, they exchanged it for assignats at par. Such were the rigorous methods by which the republicans consolidated their conquests; such the fate of a people on whom they conferred the honour of fraternization!

But though the allies had now resolved to confine their views to the defence of Holland, they did not make a precipitate retreat. The duke of York assisted the prince of Orange in putting Breda and Bois-le-Duc in a state of defence, and posted his army along the Dommel, where, on the 14th of September he was attacked by a powerful force under Pichegru. The duke of York's army amounted to no more than thirty-three thousand men, including British, Hessians, and Hanoverians. Yet he had many skirmishes with the enemy; but finding his posts to be untenable, he retired slowly through Malines, Alost, Breda, Bois-le-Duc, to Grave on the Maes, although from the beginning of July to the middle of September an army of eighty thousand republicans hung on his rear. Taking up an advantageous position under the walls of Nimeguen, the British commander determined on making a stand. Nimeguen was strong by situation, and well garrisoned; it was therefore expected to make a long resistance; but it was suddenly carried after a siege of a few days. The British army was now obliged to cross the Waal, over which the French attempted to force a passage, but they were repulsed with great loss. The important town of Maestricht, which was besieged by general Kleber, held out forty days, and surrendered on the 4th of November. The loss of these two places excited a general alarm both in England and Holland, and at the close of the year all eyes were turned to the latter country, as the expected theatre of important events. About the middle of December, the frost set in with unusual rigour, and thus opened a way to the French armies. In the course of a week, the great rivers being frozen, the Maes and the Waal were converted into solid plains of ice, capable of supporting the heaviest artillery. A numerous column of the French army, taking advantage of a circumstance so favourable to their designs, crossed the Maes on the 27th of December, and, attacking the allied army through an extent of thirty miles, were every where successful.

The military exertions of France had now displayed themselves in a light wholly unexpected to all Europe. At the end of this tremendous campaign, the French had been victorious in twenty-nine battles, and in more than a hundred less decisive engagements. They had taken one hundred and fifty-two cities and towns, three thousand eight hundred pieces of cannon; ninety standards, and seventy thousand muskets: they had killed eighty thousand of their enemies, and taken ninety thousand prisoners. No wonder that during the progress of these disastrous proceedings, the states of Holland should be seriously alarmed at their impending danger. The states of Friesland, so early as the month of October, 1794, resolved to acknowledge the French republic, to break off their connexion with England, and to conclude a treaty of peace and alliance with France. The stadtholder in vain attempted to rouse the national spirit of the Dutch; that spirit was annihilated by dissatisfaction and the introduction of democratical principles. In many of the provinces, resolutions were passed directly hostile to his authority, and Amsterdam itself was ready to invite the French republicans among them. Such was the prevailing feeling of the Dutch, when general Pichegru, having completed his arrangements, on the 10th of January, 1795, crossed the Waal at different points, with the army under his command. A general attack was made on Walmoden's position: and the allies, being defeated in every quarter, were compelled to retreat, while the French advanced into the United Provinces without farther opposition. But the miseries of the retreating army were such as no pen can adequately describe. The sick and wounded being conveyed in open wagons, were unavoidably exposed to the intense severity of the weather, to drifting snow and heavy falls of rain; ill provided with food; and often reduced to the necessity of sleeping in cold churches, on a scanty portion of dirty straw, and without a single blanket to cover them—the consequence was, that they pe-

rished by hundreds. One night in particular, the troops were obliged to cross a dreary and trackless common of three-and-twenty miles in extent, and deeply covered with snow, drifting in their faces by a strong easterly wind. The morning presented a dismal scene; baggage wagons standing with the horses deep sunk in the snow, some of them frozen stiff, and others quite dead. A spectator could not move many yards in any direction, without seeing the plain strewn with the dead bodies of men, women, children, and horses. In the midst of these calamities, the troops, while harassed by the French, met with the most brutal treatment from the Dutch populace, who accused England of being the cause of all their misfortunes, and wherever it could be done with impunity, shot or stabbed the British soldiers who had come to preserve them from the iron gripe of France.

The British army retreated in two divisions. That under lord Cathcart took a circuitous route through West Friesland, along the frontiers of Groningen: the other, constituting the main body, under general Abercrombie, marched direct for Westphalia. Lord Cathcart, finding the greater part of the country hostile to the existing government and the house of Orange, crossed the Ems at Meppen; and sir Ralph Abercrombie, after repulsing a body of the French near Bentheim, passed the same river at Rheine. Thus having made good their retreat through the Dutch territory, the British army fixed its head-quarters at Osnaburg, and the troops were cantoned in the surrounding towns and villages. In the following spring the British troops returned to England.

General Pichegru now pursued his career through the Dutch provinces with little or no interruption. Utrecht surrendered to him on the 16th of January—Rotterdam on the 18th—and Dort on the following day. The princess of Orange, with part of the family, and all the plate, jewels, and moveables that could be got ready, made her escape on the 15th: and on the 19th, the stadtholder, accompanied by the hereditary prince, took his departure for England. His serene highness embarked at Scheveling in an open boat, navigated by only three men, and arrived safe at Harwich. The palace of Hampton-court was assigned him for his residence. On the 20th of January, general Pichegru entered Amsterdam at the head of a column of five thousand men, and was received by the inhabitants with loud acclamations. The whole Batavian territory was reduced in a few days; and an assembly of provincial representatives being convoked, the government of the country was new modelled on the plan of the French republic. While Pichegru was pursuing the allies through western Flanders, the army of the Sambre and Meuse under general Jourdan, took Namur, and overran the province of Luxembourg, while various detachments taking possession of Landrecies, Quesnoy, Conde, and Valenciennes, completed the conquest of the Netherlands.

Thus fell Belgium and Holland, after being for some time defended by the armies of England and Austria, but without a single struggle for their own preservation. Since the times of Louis XIV., the patriotism of the Dutch had been extinguished by avarice; and revolutionary principles had excited disaffection to the existing government. But after general Pichegru's friendly visit, requisitions of money and men, the destruction of their commerce, the exhaustion of their country, and at last the extinction of their republican form of government, afforded them ample experience of the blessings of French fraternity.

Holland having now become an appendage of France, it was obvious that an event so inauspicious imposed on Great Britain the necessity of making extraordinary exertions, particularly in the augmentation of her navy, for the purposes both of defence and annoyance. In order, therefore, to procure a speedy supply of men, without recurring to the disagreeable necessity of impressing them for the service of the navy, a general embargo was laid on every vessel exceeding thirty-five tons burden, till she had furnished one volunteer for the navy, increasing the number in proportion to one man for every fifty tons. The parishes were also called on to furnish their respective quotas of volunteers. The mercantile tonnage of the kingdom amounted to