



A

WARNING TO BRITONS

AGAINST

French Perfidy and Cruelty :

OR,

A short ACCOUNT of the treacherous and
inhuman Conduct of the

FRENCH OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS

towards the

PEASANTS OF SUABIA,

DURING THE INVASION OF GERMANY IN 1796.

Selected and translated from a well-authenticated

GERMAN PUBLICATION,

By ANTHONY AUFRÉRE, Esq^r

With an ADDRESS to the PEOPLE of Great Britain,

By the TRANSLATOR.

*For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep
is taken away, unless they cause some to fall:*

*For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of
violence.* Prov. iv. 16. 17.

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PREFACE BY THE TRANSLATOR.

THREATENED with invasion by our ancient and inveterate enemies, who are emboldened in their ambitious projects by unprecedented success upon the Continent, and who have haughtily refused to negotiate with us upon an equitable footing, I think it incumbent upon me to lay before my countrymen an authentic statement of the calamities to which they would be exposed, should the invaders unexpectedly make good a landing, and for a short time maintain their ground upon any part of this island. I am indeed convinced, that such unlooked for and partial advantages would be followed by their speedy and total overthrow, and that Britons stand in need of no incentives to induce them to repel the assaults of their enemies with vigour and alacrity; but as several of our news-papers have, throughout the war, persisted in praising the regularity and severity of French discipline, and have purposely represented the republican armies as the protectors of the industrious peasantry and mechanics, I feel it my duty to counteract the effect of such ill founded applause, and such wilful misrepresentation, by publishing the following detail of the cruelties inflicted by the French officers and soldiers, not only upon the rich and the powerful, but upon every class of people resident in the countries where they have carried their successful arms. I will not do my countrymen the injustice to suppose, that many of them have been misled by the artful discourses of designing men; nor can I allow myself to think that they would patiently listen to the pestilential doctrines of democratic emissaries and ferocious Jacobines; but as under the mildest and wisest governments there are some, who, alike bankrupts in fortune and reputation, are eager to subvert the establishments in church and state, with the view of enriching themselves by plunder, and of arriving at the enjoyment of that power which they would exercise with the most unrelenting despotism; and as there must also be several persons, who, with well-intentioned but feeble minds, are likely to imbibe the specious but dangerous opinions of such insidious men, it is expedient to prove by well-attested facts, that the Soldiers of Liberty and Equality are the avowed enemies to the welfare of the people, and that they place their chief glory in violating every principle of religion and honour, and in trampling upon every thing that is dear to society, and necessary to the happiness of man. And if there be amongst Britons some who have been deluded into a belief that French principles, introduced and supported by French soldiers, are more likely to produce general happiness than our present excellent constitution, I am not without earnest hopes, that after a perusal of the following facts, they will not only repent of and relinquish their errors, but shudder at the name of *Revolution*, and be anxious to revenge upon our enemies the numerous wrongs which they have so wantonly and repeatedly inflicted upon humanity.

The subsequent detail is selected from a much more copious collection of facts, taken by the magistrates from the sufferers in several districts, by order of their respective governments, and published under the sanction of their authority; and the original was lately sent to me by a gentleman of Stuttgart, in the duchy of Wirtemberg, of the most unquestionable veracity, whose situation and employment enable him to procure information, and to speak with certitude, and who assured me that the account was perfectly conformable to truth, and wholly free from exaggeration. I am not ignorant however, that in defiance of such respectable testimony, and notwithstanding the details carry with them the strongest internal evidence of authenticity, some of our—too licentious—news-papers will malevolently represent this selection as a tissue of falsehoods and improbabilities, fabricated in this country by some venal partisan of administration, for the purpose of alarming the well-affected, and increasing the amount of the voluntary contributions; but it has been already amply evinced that British public spirit and liberality do not require excitement by such unworthy devices; and I request the Editors of those news-papers to observe, that I publish with no other view than that of serving my country to the best of my ability; that I am an independent man, unconnected with any, and unknown to most of the members of administration; and that holding French principles in extreme abhorrence, I think it my bounden duty to assist in checking their baneful progress, and in portraying their professors and supporters in the colours which their nefarious practices so well deserve.

The original account contains a variety of names of obscure towns and persons, which were necessary for the satisfaction of the Germans, and especially of those more immediately in the neighbourhood of the injured districts, but which I have omitted, together with much repetition of facts, as they would only fatigue the attention of the Reader, without adding to his information.

In relating some of the horrid actions of the French, I have endeavoured, I hope with success, to couch them in such terms as will not prove offensive to the ear of delicacy and of modesty; and I trust that no apology will be deemed necessary for the strong expressions frequently applied to the perpetrators of crimes hitherto without example, and deserving the severest animadversion that it is in the power of language to bestow.

I conclude with the hope that I shall not have written in vain, and that my countrymen will readily excuse the inaccuracies of a hurried publication.

Anth. Aufrère.

FRENCH CRUELTY.

INTRODUCTION.

BEFORE we commence a detail of the various enormities committed by a faithless and rapacious enemy, it is necessary to state, that they were for the most part perpetrated after a convention had been agreed upon and signed, and after great sacrifices had been made, with the hope of protecting the inhabitants.

The French crossed the Rhine upon the 23d and 24th of June 1796, and the convention was signed upon the 17th, the 25th, and the 27th of July, including the districts where the following outrages were afterwards committed. Several proclamations were also issued by the enemy, assuring the inhabitants that their religion, property, persons, laws, rights, and customs, should be respected and preserved inviolate; and the same assurances were publicly and solemnly given to the subjects of the house of Austria, in the circle of Suabia. But it will be seen, that this was only used as a mask, under which the enemy might act with greater certainty of success, and that they were guilty of crimes too atrocious to be credited, were they not attested by men of the most indisputable honour and veracity. The recollection of them will for ever be impressed upon the minds of the men of Suabia, and the melancholy story will be handed down from generation to generation, to the indelible disgrace of the self-entitled *Great Nation*.

I shall think my trouble amply rewarded, should the reader feel that the enemies of our country would never have been degraded to the lowest stage of brutality and inhumanity, if the revolution had not extinguished in them the last sparks of religion and of virtue; and I shall be satisfied, if the perusal of these sheets induce my fellow subjects to exclaim with enthusiasm, "God preserve our *Religion*, our *Country*, our *Constitution*, our *Sovereign*, and our *Fidelity*!"

The following are the principal Conditions of the CONVENTION, agreed upon between the Republic of FRANCE, the Duke of WIRTEMBERG, the Margrave of BADEN, and the Circle of SUABIA.

The duke of Wirtemberg agreed to pay to the Republic of France the sum of four millions of livres, of which one million was to be paid in ten days, two millions in the two following decades, and the fourth million in two months afterwards, making in German florins - - -	Florins. 1,833,333
He also agreed to furnish the Republic with 4,000 horses of the value of 15 louis each, making - - -	660,000
And with 200 horses of the value of 30 louis each, making - - -	66,000
Also with 100,000 quintals of bread corn, which, at 8 florins the hundred weight, is -	800,000
— with 50,000 sacks of oats, which, at 8 florins the sack, is - - -	400,000
— with 100,000 quintals of hay, which, at 3 florins the cwt. is - - -	300,000
And with 50,000 pairs of shoes, which, at 2 florins the pair, is - - -	100,000
Making in all, the sum of -	<u>4,159,333</u>
or £. 378,120 Sterling.	

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The Margrave of Baden agreed to pay to the Republic two millions of livres at the same periods as above, making	Florins.	916,666
He also agreed to furnish 1,400 horses, each of the value of 15 louis, making		231,000
— also 500 oxen, each of the value of 10 louis, making		55,000
— also 25,000 quintals of bread corn, which, at 8 florins the cwt. is		200,000
— also 12,000 sacks of oats, which, at 8 florins the sack, is		96,000
— also 50,000 quintals of hay, which, at 3 florins the cwt. is		150,000
And 25,000 pairs of shoes, which, at 2 florins the pair, is		50,000
		<hr/>
Making in all the sum of		1,598,666
or about £. 154,424 Sterling.		<hr/>

The Circle of Suabia agreed to pay to the Republic the sum of 12 millions of livres at different early periods, making	Florins.	5,500,000
Also to furnish 400 horses, each of the value of 30 louis, making		132,000
— 4,000 horses, at 20 louis, making		880,000
And 4,000 horses of the value of 15 louis each, making		660,000
— 5,000 oxen, each of the value of 10 louis, making		550,000
— 150,000 quintals of bread corn, which, at 8 florins the cwt. is		1,200,000
— 100,000 sacks of oats, which, at 8 florins the sack, is		800,000
— 150,000 quintals of hay, which, at 3 florins the cwt. is		450,000
And 100,000 pairs of shoes, which, at 2 florins the pair, is		200,000
		<hr/>
		10,372,000

And the abbeys, convents, and prelates, in
the Circle of Suabia, agreed to pay to the
Republic the sum of 7 millions of livres,
making - - - 3,208,333

Making in all the sum of - - 13,580,333
or about £. 1,234,575 Sterling.

So that, in the whole, the French received
from this single province, in money, and £. Sterling.
articles of different kinds, the sum of - 1,767,119

For these great sacrifices general Moreau promised that the persons and property of the inhabitants should, in the strictest manner, be respected and undisturbed by the troops of the Republic; that the several districts should remain under their respective customary forms of government, and be in no wise molested in their religion, laws, and customs; that what should be delivered to the French armies for their subsistence should, after the convention was signed, be considered as part of the several contributions so agreed to; and that what the soldiers should purchase of individuals should be paid for in cash.

We shall now see how righteously these promises were performed.

At the close of July 1796, the French army, in two columns, drew nigh to the Austrian territories in Suabia; and upon the third of August, the advanced guard of the right wing of the army on the Rhine and Moselle, commanded by brigadier general Abbatucci, appeared before Alton, the chief town of the Austrian government; whilst the general of division Ferino (who, before the revolution, had been a subaltern officer in the Imperial regiment of Bender) advanced at the head of the main body towards Aulendorf, and the column under the command of the general of division Tarreau, marched towards the lake of Constance, and spread itself over the adjacent country. The number of persons in the Au-
Austrian

strian territory, who considered the French as a sort of demi-gods, come to deliver them from fancied ills, and from all the duties of a subject, and to procure them the enjoyment of the most unbridled liberty and equality, was far from inconsiderable; and the neighbouring towns discovered symptoms of a disposition but too favourable to the enemy, and prejudicial to the Imperial army. But the appearance of the French in their own undisguised form, and the barbarous excesses which announced and accompanied their intentions, by betraying their real views, caused a speedy change in the sentiments of the peasantry, in which they were soon joined by the inhabitants of the towns.

Upon the 4th of August, Ferino required from the town of Altorf a present of 300 louis for himself and the officers of his staff, for which he promised his future protection to that place and its inhabitants. In like manner Tarreau extorted 125 louis from five small villages, whilst his worthy colleague Stouhlen, the commissary at war, at the same time imposed the most exorbitant contributions of provisions and clothing, the greater part of which he sold, and then exacted the delivery of similar articles. Such oppressive conduct, joined to the ravages of the soldiery and their inhuman treatment of the inhabitants, so enraged the peasantry, that they took up arms to oppose force by force, and some villagers actually attacked a detachment of 30 men belonging to the brigade of general Rousseau, who had, during their march, committed a variety of excesses, and of whom they killed five, wounded several, and put the rest to flight. Upon the 8th of August this account was brought to that general, who was then at Altorf, and who ordered the strictest search to be made for the ringleaders, when six peasants were brought before him, and every one trembled for their lives, and the safety of their village. But Rousseau acted with more humanity and justice than perhaps any other general in the French army would have done on such an occasion; for after confining the peasants during several days, he reckoned as part of their punishment their constant apprehension of approaching death, and discharged them, after requiring and receiving

an oblation of 200 louis, which were readily given to him, with great admiration of his lenity.

The prudence and activity of the chief magistrate had saved Altorf from much oppression, and its future security was thought to be ensured by the appearance of an Imperial detachment upon the 29th of September, which was received with the greatest joy by the inhabitants, when their hopes were most cruelly disappointed by a dreadful engagement upon the following day. For the Austrian general Klingling, at the head of 2400 men, having taken a position in the neighbourhood of Altorf, and his advanced guard having repulsed a patrol of sixty French hussars, this skirmish gave time for the main body of the French under general Ferino to advance, when the engagement soon became serious and general, and the Austrians having planted their artillery upon a hill south of the town, the French in three columns, to the number of 10,000, pushed forward in front of the battery and of a tremendous cannonade with such vigour, that the Austrians were under the necessity of retreating. Still however they continued to engage with great bravery in the streets of Altorf, upon the neighbouring heights, and within the walls of the Benedictine abbey of Weingarten, in hopes that they should be reinforced by general Mercantin, according to the plan which had been arranged. But such were the force and situation of the French army, that general Mercantin was not even able to inform Klingling of the obstacles which prevented the intended junction; and to this is to be attributed the ill success of the day.

The abbey suffered severely both during and after the engagement; for 500 of the enemy, burning with rage and greedy of plunder, rushed into the convent, rifled every coffer and every closet, ransacked every room from the garret to the cellar, destroyed the greatest part of the furniture, beat and wounded the priests and their attendants, robbed them of the money in their pockets, and carried away all the plate, linen, cloth, leather, and other articles, exclaiming, that it was their lawful booty. During these transactions, the same were carrying on in the town of Altorf, and many

many houses were pillaged even during the engagement. But this was only a prelude to greater and continued persecution; for during five long and sorrowful days were the town and convent abandoned to the extortions of the commissaries and officers, and to the excesses and rapacity of the soldiers. It seemed as if hell had opened, and discharged upon Altorf its most reprobate and execrable demons; for there is no enormity, however horrible, that was not perpetrated during those painfully memorable days.

The troops had no sooner quitted the abbey, than the commissaries appeared there for the purpose of plundering in the name of the French Republic, by exacting the most unheard of contributions, which were extorted by force of arms, and under menaces of conflagration and the sword. The whole stock of corn, of different kinds, all the cattle, all the wine and spirits, and, in short, all the necessaries of life, were ordered to be delivered, either at the camp or into the hands of those privileged locusts. One loaded waggon succeeded another, conveying away the plunder; and at last, the empty casks, sacks, and common household furniture were carried off, the horses were stolen out of the fields, many of the articles were sold or wantonly destroyed, and others were insisted upon in their stead. The fury of these banditti increased in proportion as their booty was diminished by their numerous thefts; and under pretence of searching for hidden treasure and concealed arms, they were guilty of the most barbarous excesses. Whoever refused to part with the shirt upon his back was considered as a conspirator against the French Republic, accused of not being a good patriot, and cruelly beaten, or maimed with a broad sword; and the prelate of the abbey was upon the point of being hanged whilst on his way to entreat the clemency of the commander in chief, and was saved only by the timely interference of an officer, who was more than commonly humane.

In the course of the first night after the engagement, some of the soldiers purposely and wantonly set fire to two houses in the town, and would not permit any attempts to be made to quench the flames. Several other

houses were more than half consumed by fire, in consequence of their scattering red hot coals and burning candles about the rooms, under the beds, and amongst every heap of combustibles they could discover, so that nothing but the great vigilance and exertions of the proprietors could have prevented the entire destruction of the town.

When Altorf was reduced to such poverty as to afford no further temptation to the pillagers, they spread themselves in bands over the surrounding country, attacked the cottages and habitations of the peasantry (to whom they had promised liberty, equality, and affluence) rifled their pockets, destroyed their furniture, tore up the floors of their rooms, cut open the mattresses and feather beds, dug up the ground in the cellars and gardens, turned over even the contents of the privies, in hopes of finding some concealed treasure, returned six or seven times to the same houses, and never quitted them until they had left nothing behind them but the bare walls. Oxen, cows, and swine were either driven off, cut in pieces upon the spot, or left cruelly mutilated; geese and poultry were carried away either dead or alive; and such provisions as could not either be consumed or conveyed away were trodden under foot, or mixed with sand, ashes, and ordure; nor did these ruffians spare even the stores of bread, which it is usual in that country to keep dried for consumption in the winter. Many cellars were left half full of wine, which had run from the casks they wantonly had staved; and the houses were long afterwards impregnated with the vapour of the brandy which they had poured about the rooms in the most wasteful manner. They destroyed even the milk-pails and all the appendages of the dairy; and in many dwellings there was not even a bench or a chair unbroken. The peasants were sometimes threatened with immediate death, and sometimes put to extreme torture, in order to procure a discovery of money and other valuables, which they were accused of having concealed; and many were severely wounded and crippled, either by musket balls, blows with the but-ends of the firelocks, or strokes of the broad sword.

sword. The deepest and most apparent poverty was not even a protection against them; for beggars were stripped of their rags; and the number of those who were left without a shirt upon their backs is by no means inconsiderable. Grey hairs and lisping infancy, the sick, the dying, and even women in labour, were alike exposed to the most inhuman treatment, and were dragged from their beds, kicked about, and frequently wounded, under pretence that they were the keepers of concealed treasure. The women and children, who attempted to escape, were pursued, plundered, and violated; and girls from ten to twelve years of age were deprived of their innocence and health by these republican barbarians. Neither age nor infirmity, nor yet the most offensive disorders, were able to set bounds to their more than brutal lust; and ten, twelve, and even twenty of these depraved wretches are known successively to have gratified their passions with the same object, whilst their shameless colleagues either kept guard at the door, or held loaded pistols and fixed bayonets at the head of the unhappy sufferer. Even in the infirmary near Weingarten did these cannibals commit the same horrid crimes, and outrage persons suffering under the most disgusting maladies, and such as preclude them from communication with the rest of mankind. But delicacy forms no part of the character of the French republican; for at Heidenheim they used as spits for their meat the iron spikes upon which they had found the heads of some lately executed malefactors, and made their fire with the wheels upon which the corpses had been exposed. Even the bodies of young women, who had expired under their barbarity, and of women who but a few hours before had been in labour, were made use of to satiate the infernal lust of these monsters in human shape, degraded far beneath the beasts of the field. With menaces of slaughter, with blows, with unsheathed sabres, and with loaded muskets, they enforced universal submission; and dreadful was their revenge when their inclinations were resisted. Whilst they were plundering, destroying, dishonouring, and committing such excesses as humanity shudders to relate, at the village of Ingoldingen, from
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the second to the fourth of October, six or eight volunteers rushed into the house of Jacob Furst, a farmer, whose wife they ill-treated, and threatened with instant death if she refused to consent to their desires; but that resolute woman declaring that she had rather meet death than dishonour, attacked the ruffians, and, assisted by her husband, who fortunately came in, drove them out of the house. Determined however to revenge themselves, they set fire to the dwelling, which, with the furniture, granary, and every thing but the cattle, became a prey to the flames. Three other houses met a similar fate, and the damages sustained by this and an adjoining village amounted, in contributions and in losses by plunder and conflagration, to the sum of 44,824 florins, or above £. 4,000 sterling.

Not a trace of decency, not the least regard to religion and its customs, appeared in the conduct of the French soldiery. In the churches they broke open the pyx, trampled the host under foot, carried away the communion plate and the robes of the priests, destroyed the crucifixes and other images, and treated with ignominy every thing that is deemed holy by the catholic, and respected by the well-meaning man of every religion. In one of the villages, where the church was stripped of its ornaments, and the minister completely pillaged, they placed upon the altar the figure of Satan, which they had taken from the representation of the Redeemer tempted in the desert; and in another village they placed a crucifix before the fire, and, amidst shouts of most indecent mirth, turned it round like meat roasting upon a spit, whilst the grey-headed minister of the parish, at the venerable age of eighty-three, was not only plundered and insulted, but severely beaten, as a reward for the hospitality with which he had received them. And indeed it ought not to be forgotten, that, with very few exceptions, the most brutal actions and the greatest excesses were committed in the houses of those, who, by anticipation of their wishes, or promptitude in execution of their orders, endeavoured to disarm their ferocity, and secure protection and tranquillity.

It was not until the fifth of October that this district was

was relieved from the Republican troops, and from the tribe of Jews, spies, and traitorous informers, the refuse of Suabia, who had followed the French army, and greatly contributed to increase the distresses of the people. Upon the 6th of October the Imperialists were welcomed with a joy as sincere and universal as was the detestation of the Republicans and their principles.

The damages sustained by the Abbey of Weingarten, by pillage and requisitions, amounted to 257,082 florins; those incurred by the town of Altorf, to 93,229 florins; and the whole amount of the damages sustained by this district was 500,000 florins, or upwards of 45,000 *l.* sterling.

PFULLENDORF.

UPON the second of August 1796, a division of the column under the orders of general Ferino marched through this village, when some chasseurs belonging to the advanced guard entered a shop, and forcibly took silk handkerchiefs and other goods to the value of 100 florins, for which they offered some assignats in payment; but upon the shopkeeper refusing to take such useless paper, they struck at him with their sabres, and left the shop with shouts of laughter and torrents of abuse. Five others entered the house of one of the magistrates, loudly asking for wine and victuals, with which they were speedily and amply served, and for which they testified their gratitude, by robbing their entertainer of his watch and money. The same night they threatened an inhabitant with death for telling an officer, who wanted to put his carriage into his barn, that there was no room for it; and his life was with difficulty saved by a magistrate, who had him conveyed to the town-prison (as a place of safety from the enemy) under promise that he should be punished.

In the neighbouring village of Neubronn, belonging to the prince of Furstenberg, six riflemen imposed a contribution of 300 florins, or about 27 *l.* sterling, pillaged several houses, and so ill-treated such as endeavoured to protect their property, and to resist the insults offered to their wives and daughters, that many honest and industrious labourers were reduced to the greatest distress.

If the rough and barbarous manner in which these armed ruffians extorted what they wanted excited terror and detestation, their intemperance gave rise to an equal degree of astonishment; for two Frenchmen would devour at a meal as much as would serve three hard-working Germans during three or four days; and between the hours of two and nine, they would frequently have three complete meals, which they generally moistened with whole rivers of wine, plentifully sweetened with sugar, and usually strengthened with cherry-brandy.

Pfullendorf and the adjacent villages suffered, however, but little, in comparison with other places, until the enemy began to retreat, when the French not only carried away or destroyed all the forage and corn they could find, but so entirely demolished a small hamlet in the neighbourhood, by breaking the windows, forcing open the doors, and destroying all the beds and other furniture in the houses, as to oblige the owners to have recourse to their neighbours for lodging and subsistence. After the engagement at Biberach, upon the 2d of October, which was very destructive on both sides, without altering the situation of affairs, the French main hospital was removed to Pfullendorf. The enormity of the requisitions for this hospital was equalled only by the waste and the frauds committed by the *officiers de santé* (the physicians and surgeons) who publicly sold the sugar, and were more occupied in bargaining for the sale of such other articles as they had extorted, than busied in attending to the wants of the sick.

Upon the 5th of October, general Moreau himself fixed his head quarters at Pfullendorf, and was followed by his whole army, which was distributed about the country, and, like the preceding hordes, rendered itself for ever infamous by the gratification of every savage passion, the commission of every sort of excess, and the practice of every species of extortion. A brave fellow, who had assisted in driving some of the plunderers out of the village he inhabited, was afterwards recognized and shot; as were two farmers in another village, whilst endeavouring to prevent their doors from being forced open.

open. A servant at the hospital of Pfullendorf, who served as guide to a dragoon, was shot by the blood-thirsty villain without any provocation, and so grievously wounded, that he shortly after expired. Two labourers and a shoe-maker were murdered in another place by some of the straggling soldiers, for attempting to prevent some atrocious action, and for threatening to ring the alarm bell. A poor woman, 60 years of age, who was gleaning in a field, was forcibly thrown down by one of the republican barbarians, and menaced with death if she did not yield to his brutal desires, whilst another stood with his bayonet at the breast of her aged husband, and forced him to be a witness of his wife's dishonour. A church was broken open and plundered, and the minister's house compleatly rifled, under the eyes of general Moreau himself, who, to the lamentations of the sufferer, contemptuously replied, "I cannot prevent it"—and quietly betook himself to his favourite cherry-brandy, in which he indulged himself to excess, like the meanest of his soldiers.

Amongst the commissaries, who pillaged in the name of the Republic, one Nicolas particularly distinguished himself; for having suddenly required, as absolutely necessary for the army, the delivery of such an immense quantity of hay and corn as, he was told, could not possibly be procured in so short a time as he had mentioned, he made no scruple of declaring, that if a weighty purse were offered to him for his own private use, he would say nothing more about the requisition; and having cheated a miller in the weight of the flour delivered by him, he extorted from him upwards of 13 louis, as a compensation for the pretended deficiency. Out of the many instances of fraud committed by the commissaries, we will mention one, which in several respects is not a little characteristic. One evening two of those harpies required the delivery of 3000 pounds weight of beef upon the following morning; but the butcher suspecting it to be a scheme to extort money, applied to an officer upon the staff, who immediately agreed in opinion with the butchers, and gave them a note to the commanding officer, who expressed the same opinion, but added, "It is
not

not in my power to protect you against these blood-suckers, and I must therefore advise you to comply with their demands." They followed his advice, were employed the whole night in slaughtering their beasts, and were told the next day that the meat was not wanted.

WALDSEE.

BEFORE the armies of the French Republic overran, vexed, and desolated the Circle of Suabia, the inhabitants of the little town of Waldsee were enabled to form a correct judgment of the character of the Republican troops, from the conduct of the French prisoners who had been originally quartered there between the 21st of December 1795 and the 6th of July 1796, so that they heard of the approach of this lawless horde with more apprehensions than the inhabitants of most other places. The French behaved more like conquerors than prisoners, not only towards the inhabitants, but towards the Austrian officers and soldiers; and when they heard that the whole French army had crossed the Rhine, their outrageous joy knew no bounds. They insulted the inhabitants in the grossest terms, repaid the kindnesses they had received with insolence; and even with blows, began to pillage the houses of the peasantry, robbed the gardens around the town, laid waste the corn fields, endeavoured forcibly to dishonour women and children, and by numerous excesses abused the kind and noble manner in which they had been treated by the Austrians. Several of the officers deceived the vigilance of the garrison, and making excursions to the neighbouring free Imperial towns of Ravenspurg and Biberach, reconnoitred the country, and found many who, either out of interest or from attachment to the emissaries of liberty and equality, degraded themselves by carrying on a traitorous correspondence with the enemy, and forwarding the dispatches of the prisoners to the Directory, so that it is no longer to be wondered at that the leader of the Republican armies should possess such a circumstantial knowledge of every district through which he was to pass.

Upon

Upon the 28th of July the Imperial general Frolich, at the head of his corps, quitted Waldsee, where he had arrived upon the preceding day, and being too weak successfully to contend with the superior numbers under the command of general Ferino, withdrew by Wurzach towards the Danube. He was followed by the emigrant legion, amounting to nine or ten thousand men, who upon the second of August were at so short a distance from Waldsee, that Ferino's advanced guard had pushed within a mile and a half of their rear. Upon the following day a detachment of French infantry entered the town, and whilst their commanding officer was endeavouring to persuade the magistrates that the inhabitants should enjoy the most perfect security both in person and property, his soldiers forcibly entered the shops and carried away what they thought proper. The officer indeed ordered the goods to be restored, and appointed a non-commissioned officer to execute his commands; but only a few trifling articles were returned, and the non-commissioned officer publicly divided the rest of the spoil amongst his comrades, not failing to take due care of himself. Reeling with wine, and loaded with plunder, they quitted Waldsee in the evening, and were next morning succeeded by another detachment, five of whom hastened to a chapel, which they broke open, and pillaged of the communion plate; after which they proceeded to a neighbouring village, plundered several houses, and fired 15 times at one Beckhinger, a miller, who defended his property like a hero, and who, without being himself wounded, shot one of the robbers dead upon the spot, broke the leg of another, and put the rest to flight. In the mean time, those in the town revelled in abundance, took the watches from the pockets of the inhabitants, and under pretence of paying in specie for what they wanted, forced the tradesmen to open their shops, took what articles they chose, and paid for them in mandats and assignats.

Upon the 7th of August, the advanced guard of the column commanded by general Ferino, amounting to 4,000 men, under the orders of general Abbatucci, entered
Waldsee,

Waldsee, which was now obliged to provide, not only for this army, but also for the numerous out-posts beyond the town. A contribution of 15,000 pounds weight of bread, and 4,000 bottles of wine, commenced the list of requisitions, which succeeded each other almost without intermission, and were rendered the more oppressive from the danger which every convoy of corn and cattle incurred from the enemy; for whatever fell into the hands of the out-posts, though destined for the supply of the army, became a prey to these ungovernable banditti: the peasantry, going to the town, were robbed of their shoes, stockings, and wearing apparel; and even the waggons and horses that brought wine and provisions for the troops were seized and sent away, and the owners were frequently detained, and forced to follow the army during several days, and even weeks, until they could purchase their liberty with money. Not satisfied with the common fare of the country, these pretended champions of liberty and equality demanded large supplies of fish, butter, cheese, and fruit, after every meal; and if they were not instantly produced, they fell upon the landlord and servants, beat them, and threatened them with death, and finished by plundering the kitchen, pantry, and cellars; and such was their wilful waste of fodder, that in this single day several farmers were deprived of their whole provision for the winter.

Upon the 8th of August, this unbridled horde quitted Waldsee, and Ferino himself appeared there at the head of the main body of the army, but was preceded by the adjutant general Berthold, who came to prepare quarters for the staff, and who rendered himself odious by his unbounded insolence and rapacity. With menacing gestures and the most horrid oaths he threatened to cleave with his sabre the head of the burgomaster, merely because he had conducted him to a house not suited to his refined taste, although it was by far the best in the place; nor was he pacified until he had been complimented with a present of 15 louis, which his servant, a wretch with the countenance and demeanor of a galley slave, negotiated for him without the least delicacy. The other officers, without scruple, extorted breeches, shoes, boots, stockings,

stockings, linen, and other necessaries; and Pring, the commandant of the town, declared, that he would make no attempt at discipline until he and his servant had been newly clothed. Others exacted a large quantity of dishes, glasses, kitchen furniture, and provisions, for their respective corps in the neighbourhood of the town, but offered to relinquish the articles required for a certain compensation in louis or dollars.

Notwithstanding the maintenance of this rapacious soldiery, and of their numerous cavalry, far surpassed the ability of this small town, the commissaries ordered 300 bushels of oats to be carried away, so that the whole store was exhausted before the army had begun to move. Smiths, sadlers, and wheelwrights were forced to work hard without a recompence; and amongst the innumerable articles put in a state of requisition, was even a quantity of grease for wheels.

Upon the 10th of August, Ferino and his licentious host began to move forwards; but not until the infirmary had been stripped of all the beds, mattresses, and linen, nor until the governor of the infirmary, and all the sick and poor under his care, had been plundered of every thing they possessed. Thenceforward, until the retreat, the town was daily obliged to provide for 20, 50, and frequently for 100 men, who with horses and baggage waggons passed through with their spoil, and required to be forwarded to the confines of France. The flying hospitals also became another scourge and source of oppression to the town of Waldsee, from the quantity of drugs, wine, vinegar, shirts, cloth, and lint, which were constantly put in requisition, and by which the sick and wounded soldiers were but little benefitted; for the officers of health, who were as shameless cheats as the commissaries, sold the greatest part of the wine, caused shirts for themselves, and shifts for their wives and mistresses, to be made out of the cloth, and frequently took money instead of the drugs most requisite, suffering the sick and wounded to recover as they could. They even carried their inhumanity to their own countrymen so far, that during a day's halt at Waldsee, the wounded were

were not once taken out of the waggons, but were forced to remain there throughout the day, unattended, and exposed to the burning heat of the sun.

At length, upon the 28th of September, the advanced guard of Ferino's column again marched into Waldsee, and was quickly succeeded by the main body of the army. The houses were now crowded with soldiers, who committed every species of excess, and were even more fierce and malicious than before. Under pretence that they had been robbed of their arms or baggage, they extorted from the innocent landlords and servants compensations in money, ill treated such as did not instantly comply, carried away all the furniture that was portable, wantonly destroyed the corn in the barns and fields, rifled and wholly stripped several habitations, and displayed the extreme of their infernal wickedness and malevolence, by piling up all the bread they could find, and setting it on fire, although they knew that the poor ruined inhabitants were in the greatest want of that most necessary article of support. The female sex was neither so publicly nor so generally dishonoured here as in many other places; and they who were unfortunate enough to be violated, endeavoured to conceal their disgrace, but to no effect; for it discovered itself in consequence of the disgusting maladies which soon broke out, and with which they had been infected by these ruffians.

It was useless to complain to the general officers of the unreasonable demands of the commissaries and the excesses of the soldiery, for their answer was, "Give them what they ask for, and their extortions must necessarily terminate." And thus were they constrained to see all the provision of corn taken from the granary of the infirmary, and many of the inhabitants robbed of their whole stock of fodder for the winter. At midnight the whole army unexpectedly began to move, and commenced their march with burning torches and lighted candles in their hands; their retreat was covered by general Jordis, and the next morning not a Frenchman was to be seen in or near the town of Waldsee; though upon their march a band of chasseurs straggled into an outlying hamlet, and demanded the immediate
payment

payment of 12 louis as a contribution; but the peasantry not producing it so speedily as was expected, the banditti rushed into their houses, destroyed every thing too bulky to be carried off, and rolling the winter stock of bread in filth and ordure, with malicious and satan-like shouts of laughter, offered it to the unfortunate and helpless labourers. When about £. 10. sterling had been collected with much difficulty, and under continual dread of being massacred, these unhappy people were under the necessity of using the most humiliating intreaties to their plunderers to accept this sacrifice, and do them no further injury.

The damages incurred by the inhabitants of Waldsee, in consequence of this fraternal visit from the *great* nation, amounted to 45,000 florins, or upwards of £. 4,000 sterling.

M A R K D O R F,

A small town in Suabia, in the bishopric of Constance.

WHEN the French appeared upon the banks of the lake of Constance, their leaders affected to be surprized that people should be afraid of them, and that many should desert the country: "For," said they, "we are only come to offer peace to the Emperor, and not to violate either your religion, your customs, your persons, or your property, all which shall be most carefully respected and preserved." This assurance was publicly given to the deputies from several towns and villages by general Tarreau, who added, "that it was his particular object and business to maintain the severest discipline and the most exact order in his army." Tranquillized by this serious declaration the deputies returned home, and upon the third of August, at noon-day, the French, to the number of 6,000 men, entered Markdorf and the neighbouring hamlets, and were entertained as liberally as possible by the inhabitants. But they soon began to break open doors and commit thefts, even under the eyes of the staff-officers, and some of the horde spread themselves over the surrounding country, where these self-termed protectors of the peasantry tore the clothes from the

the

the backs, and the shoes and stockings from the feet and legs of the poor cottagers and farmers who offered them provisions, broke open their cellars, rifled their closets and coffers, carried away all the valuable articles they could find, destroyed the household furniture, and cruelly beat and wounded such as made a show of defending their property. At length three volunteers were arrested for having robbed a public messenger upon the highway of two watches and his money, and afterwards wounded him in the head with a bayonet, because he complained of their ill usage. A court martial immediately passed sentence of death upon one of the malefactors, and condemned the others to the galleys, which latter part of the sentence Tarreau converted into punishment by death; but this was only done to deceive the people by a semblance of justice and discipline; for notwithstanding the preparations for their execution, the thieves were not hanged, but were very soon afterwards discharged.

No man knew better than Tarreau how to reap where he had not sown, and no sooner was he arrived at the castle of Markdorf than he began to demean himself like a madman, furiously complaining that bread had not been purposely baked for his army, although he knew that it was impossible to prepare such a quantity upon such short notice, and that the troops had been so liberally treated with bread and wine upon their arrival. "If you don't instantly provide bread enough," said he with a thundering voice, "I will give orders to my whole brigade to fall on and plunder you." The commissary Stouhlen, one of the most worthless men in the army, and for that reason the confidential favourite of Tarreau, not only spoke in the same tone, but immediately issued a requisition, by which 18,000 pounds weight of bread were ordered to be baked before nine o'clock at night, under the penalty of the town being given up to be plundered by the soldiers. The chief magistrate, not aware that this was only a premeditated scheme to raise money, was full of anxiety for the town, well knowing that such provision could not possibly be made in so short a time; but he was soon relieved from his distress by a visit from La-
brouffe

brouffe, one of Tarreau's aides-de-camp, and his faithful colleague in the arts of extortion, who advised him to pacify the general by a present of two gold watches. "But," added he, "you must not hint that I gave you this advice, for the general is a man of the *most delicate feelings*, and the *nicest honour*." Two handsome gold watches were immediately procured, and offered to Tarreau, whose fury abated, and whose brow was smoothed; whilst Stouhlen tore in pieces the requisition for the 18,000 pounds of bread, and said, "Let them bake what they can"—and so ended the farce.

The column soon afterwards proceeded on its march; but two days afterwards Stouhlen sent a demand for 9,000 pounds weight of bread, which were delivered to him, and Markdorf was relieved from farther contributions, until the close of September, though it still suffered much from the exactions and thefts committed by the troops, who were continually marching to and fro.

The retreat at length took place, and upon the 22d of September the head quarters were fixed at Hofen, in the neighbourhood of Markdorf, which, with the adjoining villages, now experienced every sort of oppression. Two of the commissaries, established at different places near Markdorf, at the same time and with similar menaces, required from that town the most exorbitant supplies; so that it was exposed to the merciless attacks of those harpies, without a possibility of redress, and requisition succeeded requisition. The deputy commissaries also visited the adjacent country with their exactions, and obliged the peasants either to comply with their demands, or to purchase their exemption with gold. "We coin requisitions like money," said the commissary Nonette, who, like his brethren, readily and publicly desisted from levying contributions in return for a present to himself; and the town of Markdorf was forced to pay him in cash the value of 20 tons of hay and of 25 sacks of oats, in order to prevent the threatened general pillage by the soldiery; nor could the execution of a similar menace from another commissary be averted but by a well-timed present to his secretary.

Upon the morning of the fifth of October, Tarreau arrived at Markdorf with his staff, and finding that his head quarters had been established at the inn, he galloped up to the Castle, and vehemently demanding why it had not been prepared for his reception, added, speaking to the burgomaster, " But I know you had much rather entertain the Imperialists ; here in the Castle, however, will I lodge, and if in the course of two hours five beds are not prepared for me and my staff, you shall receive 25 lashes, to be repeated every hour until my orders are obeyed." The beds were accordingly prepared ; but Tarreau's wrath was not appeased ; and it approached almost to madness, when late at night he received an order for the army to continue its retreat early the next morning. The people of Markdorf passed this whole night in the greatest anxiety ; for Tarreau had more than ten times threatened to set fire to the town in four different places, and his ungovernable rage gave them good reason to apprehend the worst ; they were, however, fortunate enough to escape the conflagration, and the next morning the barbarian marched away with his division, followed by the execrations of the whole country, who upon the same day joyfully received the Austrians as their deliverers from the iron yoke which had been imposed by these champions in the cause of liberty and equality. Their visitation cost the inhabitants of Markdorf near 40,000 florins, or about £. 3,600 sterling ; a large sum, considering that the town did not contain more than 350 heads of families, few of whom were in a state of affluence, and that they had, during some years, been very unsuccessful in the culture and produce of their vineyards.

It ought not to be forgotten, that in a hamlet near the town, ten brutal French soldiers alternately violated the chastity of a woman, who hourly expected to be taken in labour, and whose husband was forcibly made a witness of their barbarity. An officer too, whose assistance had been requested by the neighbours, upon entering the house, was so far from reproving the soldiers, that—horrible to relate !—he immediately followed their example,

ple, and added to the injuries already offered to the expiring woman. In another village, a woman who had only borne a child about eight days, was dishonoured and treated with such violence that her recovery was extremely doubtful, and when, in despair, she fled from them in her shift, and with her infant in her arms, she was pursued by the loose jokes and malign shouts of these inhuman sons of Satan, over whose other atrocious actions in this district it is now time to throw a veil.

MEERSBURG,

A town upon the banks of the Lake of Constance, in the Circle of Suabia, and the residence of the prince-bishop of Constance.

Advice having been received at this town upon the 18th of September, that the division of the French army, under general Tarreau, was retreating through that part of Suabia, the gates of the town were ordered to be shut; and, according to the tenor of a French proclamation of the 18th of August, they were not to be opened to any of the officers or soldiers, except to such as had their route made out and signed by the officers upon the staff. Notwithstanding this precaution, the inns were soon filled with French soldiers, and the stables were crowded with the horses they had stolen upon the march; and such as could not gain admittance were amply provided with meat and drink at the gates of the town. Three days afterwards, Tarreau, who probably had long wished for an oblation from Meersburg, sent the following despotic and alarming note to the magistrates: "I command you to appear at my head-quarters at Yffini, in the course of twenty four hours." The Baron de Reichlin and two other respectable magistrates forthwith repaired to Yffini, and were received by the aid-de-camp Labrousse, who, reeling about half naked, greeted them in a thundering voice with, "come in, scoundrels as you are; your town shall speedily be reduced to ashes, and yourselves exalted upon a gibbet;" and then placing a guard over them, and reassuring them, "that the sun should early the next morning light them on their way to the gallows," he staggered into the apartment of

Tarreau. The deputies at length discovered that their gaolers thirsted for the blood of the governor of Meersburg, who had caused the gates to be shut, as above related, and who would certainly have fallen a sacrifice to their rage, if he had not hastily retired into Switzerland. Upon examination of the deputies the next morning, and upon their declaration that the gates had been shut by order of the governor, Labrousse ordered two carriages to be prepared, and immediately drove with them, escorted by twenty hussars, and preceded by a hangman, to Meersburg, when such members of the regency as had not escaped were summoned, and treated with the same insolence and menaces as the deputies had been subject to upon the preceding evening. Fire and sword, gallows and musket-balls, thundered incessantly from the lips of the tyrant, and he swore that the house of the governor should instantly be reduced to ruins. At length, after much altercation, Labrousse detained two of the chief officers of state as hostages, and departed with them for head quarters, where, whilst the people of the town anxiously awaited the catastrophe, this apparently tragical history terminated in peaceful robbery. General Tarreau had an inclination for, and was complimented with a handsome carriage and two fine horses belonging to one of the hostages, which, with a weighty purse of gold, sacrificed to him and his assistant Labrousse, compleated the expiation, though not until the friendship of the general's valet de chambre and cook had been purchased at the price of five louis each; for this knot of thieves was so closely united that it was not safe to pass any of them unnoticed. Tarreau demanded also and received six horses from the stables of the prince-bishop of Constance; and the commissary Didier imposed upon the town of Meersburg the most exorbitant contributions, which he afterwards withdrew, upon receiving a present of sixty louis and two fine horses. These are some of the many base actions of the French at Meersburg, which, though not generally plundered, was exposed to much robbery and vexation; for some of the French, with an officer at their head, forcibly entered a shop, and carried off goods to the value of seventy pounds sterling; another

other party robbed a watch-maker of four gold and two silver watches; and several petty thefts were committed both by the officers and soldiers.

B R E M E N,

A village in Suabia, in the county of Friedberg.

HUMANITY shudders at the recollection of the cruelties and enormities committed by the French in many parts of the county of Friedberg, and particularly at the village of Bremen, which, upon the 6th of October, in the evening, was beset by a band of robbers, under the denomination of Republican soldiers, who, mad with wine, rushed into the houses with the most hideous war-whoop, and had immediate recourse to their well-known system of plunder. All the coffers and closets were broken open and rifled—all the household furniture was destroyed—the peasants were required, with loaded pistols at their breasts, to deliver up their money—the beds and bedding were unripped and examined—and under pretence of searching for concealed treasure, not only the floors of the rooms were torn up, but even infants were vehemently dragged from their cradles, and many families were deprived of nearly all their property. But still more terrible to these peaceful and innocent country people was the infernal manner in which the female sex was treated by these villains. In the whole village there was neither maiden, wife, nor widow, who was not forcibly and repeatedly dishonoured; and such was the depravity of these miscreants, that eight, ten, and frequently more than that number, successively insulted the same unfortunate victim with the accomplishment of their brutal purposes. Neither early youth, nor hoary-headed age, nor deformity, nor yet the most offensive disorders, could abate the fury of their passions; and not only husbands, but fathers, and—to fill up the measure of their iniquity—even little children, were made to be witnesses of these abominable outrages. One woman, who, with her husband, had struggled ineffectually against the attempts of six of these monsters, was dragged into the fields, over hedges and ditches, repeatedly dishonoured,

noured, and left half dead upon the ground, whilst her husband was cruelly maimed with their sabres, and even her sucking infant was treated with the greatest inhumanity. Others of the female sex, both here and in the adjacent villages, were fastened to trees, and violated by succeeding numbers.

Not satisfied with these excesses, they proceeded to rife the churches, and, with the most blasphemous expressions, destroyed the altars, polluted the communion-table with their ordure, pulled down and reviled the image of our Saviour, trampled the host under foot, and then threw it to the dogs.

General Courbe levied a contribution of 20 louis upon the poor inhabitants of the small hamlet of Braunweiler, under a solemn promise that they should not be plundered or molested; but the money was scarcely paid, before a party of his soldiers arrived, and completely ruined them.

A party of grenadiers came to the house of a farmer and innkeeper in another village, and after being liberally supplied with provisions, suddenly attacked the master of the house, calling out, in the language of highwaymen, "Your money or your life;" and when they had secured all the money he had about him, they forcibly threw him upon the ground and beat him, broke open and plundered all his chests and coffers, and were upon the point of departing with their booty, when they were joined by nine dragoons, who, after indulging themselves with the contents of the cellar, discharged three muskets, as a signal to their distant comrades that they had discovered some secret treasure. In less than a quarter of an hour they were reinforced by 200 men, who presently consumed or destroyed all the wine, bread, and provisions in the house, and terminated their heroic exploits by breaking all the glass and earthen ware, destroying the empty casks, and threatening to set fire to the premises.

WEHR,

A village in Austrian Suabia.

THIS place was visited, upon the 18th of July 1796, by four mounted artillery men in ragged uniforms, who, in

in the style of a requisition, demanded 66 sacks of oats and three waggon loads of hay, which were no sooner delivered to them, than they conveyed them to a neighbouring town, and there sold them for ready money.

In the same month the environs were cursed with the presence of general Tuncq, whose infamy is recorded in the annals of La Vendée, and who was assisted in his crimes by his aide-de-camp Schulz, the son of a petty inn-keeper at Huningen. This general chose, as articles of plunder, wood and flax, and obliged the Baron de Schonaw, chief proprietor of Wehr, to cut down and deliver, in the course of five days, 372 oaks and other trees, which he floated down the Rhine into Switzerland, where he had previously fixed an agent, who sold the wood, and divided the spoil with his employer. When the chiefs of several villages represented to him the impossibility of furnishing what he required, he ordered them to be beaten, and chained together, and thrown into prison like common malefactors. It is true, that upon complaint to the Directory, Tuncq was brought to a court martial and degraded, and that his aide-de-camp found it prudent to retreat with part of his booty; but no recompence was made to those whom he had injured and plundered, and other privileged thieves, under the denomination of commissaries and agents, appeared in their room, and were sanctioned in their numerous oppressions.

Upon the 20th of October, in the afternoon, the rearguard (in every respect the refuse) of the army of the Rhine and Moselle appeared at Wehr, and encamped under the walls of the castle. The women and children now fled up the country with part of their cattle and effects, and took refuge in a wood; but the family in the castle and all the men remained at home, with the hope of, in some degree, preventing the evils they so justly dreaded. The first set of banditti began their operations by plundering the villages, and in the course of three hours conveyed to their camp 120 swine, 62 sheep, 36 calves, a great quantity of poultry, and upwards of 1200 sheaves of wheat; and finished by tearing the shoes from off the feet of the inhabitants. The next visit was

from a party of hussars headed by a colonel Marulat who appeared late in the evening, drank all the wine and spirits in the village of Wehr, and misused those who were not able to afford them any; and at midnight, when all was quiet, 600 volunteers, with bayonets fixed, appeared before the castle, and loudly called for 3,600 bottles of wine, at the same time threatening to set fire to the village and castle if their demand was not immediately complied with. Remonstrance was vain and useless; and after the officers and men had familiarly drunk to the greatest excess, they carried away the remainder of their booty.

Amongst the innumerable acts of inhumanity committed during this dreadful night, the following deserves to be particularly recorded:—Five soldiers having forced open the door of a house, in which lay a poor woman who had been taken in labour about twelve hours before, they, with drawn swords at the breast of the still-suffering woman, demanded her money, and upon being told that she had none, ransacked the dwelling and out-house, and carried away all the furniture, wearing apparel, swine, and poultry they could find, and at departing, one of them, by way of humanity, threw a dead fowl at the head of the poor sufferer, and told her she might make herself some broth with it*.

The retreat of the French through this district was marked by similar instances of rapine and brutality. In one village they violated and so barbarously abused a girl about 15 years of age, that in three days she was a corpse. In the same village they broke into the house of a shop-keeper who was recovering from a severe illness, cut his bedding in pieces, scattered the feathers about the premises, rifled the house and shop, and having disco-

* The Reader will have observed with horror many instances of the cruelty of the French towards lying-in women; and he will shudder at hearing, that the Republicans frequently drowned the children which were borne to them by their wives or concubines, during their march through Franconia. This is not a fabulous report, but a real and well-attested fact. See "The Conduct of the French in Franconia," published in 1796 by the Count of Soden.

vered in the garden a chest full of goods which had been deposited there for security, carried it off with the rest of their booty. They not only plundered another house, but, with the malevolence of evil spirits, mixed together all the wheat-corn, oats, and rye they could find, and strewed them over the apartments. The village was completely pillaged and ruined, the utensils necessary for the vintage were thrown into the Rhine, the churches were plundered, the pyx broken to pieces, and the consecrated host trampled under foot. In the environs of the camp the corpses of several women were found, who had been violated and abused even unto death; and, however incredible it may appear, it is a fact, that the monsters, satisfied their brutal appetites with corpses, and with some unhappy victims in the agonies of death.

RADOLF - ZELL,

A town in Austrian Suabia, near the Inferior Lake of Constance, containing about 1,800 souls.

THE attachment testified by the greatest part of the inhabitants of Suabia, and especially by those of the Austrian territories in that Circle, to their governors and constitution, amidst the successes of the enemy, was frequently attended by very considerable danger, and was either ridiculed or murmured at by the French, who called them German beasts, unworthy of the good fortune, which, like missionaries from hell, they offered them, with the dagger in one hand, and the firebrand in the other. But neither menaces nor insults could weaken their fidelity and loyalty, and it is worthy of remark, that the incursion of the French into the empire not only put an end to every wish to revolutionize, but contributed to unite the sovereign and the people much more closely than before. Several towns, and Radolf-Zell in particular, suffered much for their distinguished attachment to their sovereign and constitution; and upon the retreat of Tarreau, the last-mentioned town was saved from threatened conflagration, by a present of two fine horses to the general, and by supplying him and his army with an abundance of the most costly provisions that could

be procured ; after which the soldiers destroyed the vineyards, the produce of which was upon the point of being gathered, cut down the fruit trees, in order the more easily to pluck the fruit, and broke down the hedges and fences of the gardens. In the neighbouring villages they stole all the horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, as well as all the stock of wine in the cellars, and the store of corn in the granaries and barns. The female sex here also met with the most barbarous usage, the consequences of which were fatal to many of them.

ENGELWIES, DURBHEIM, and BARENTHAL,
Three villages in Suabia.

IN this district the French were guilty of the greatest excesses during their retreat ; and, regardless of the conditions in the convention which had been solemnly agreed upon, they treated the peasantry and villagers like people who were to be trampled upon, without the privilege of resistance, which was deemed a crime punishable with conflagration and the sword, as was proved in the case of the village of Engelwies, upon account of the following incident.

A soldier belonging to a party that had begun to plunder the village, having pillaged the dwelling house of the parish minister, was not satisfied without wanting to strip him of his breeches ; upon which his brother, formerly an Austrian non-commissioned officer, started up in his defence, and just as the Frenchman was about to fire his musket at him, struck him such a blow upon the head as brought him lifeless to the earth. This was no sooner discovered by the comrades of the deceased, than their rage as well as their numbers seemed every moment to increase ; they committed cruelties too horrible for description, and concluded the terrible scene, by swearing that the whole village should be annihilated ; nor could the prayers and intreaties of the aged and the matron prevent or delay the execution of their threats. The parsonage, 15 other houses, and 18 barns, were speedily reduced to ashes, with their furniture, and all the produce of their late abundant harvest ; and the signal was already given for
burning

Burning the remaining houses, when they received an order from head quarters to desist, and immediately commence their retreat, the Austrians being in full march against them. The minister's brother had early saved himself by flight; but the priest and his clerk were carried, chained together, as far as Muhlheim on the Danube, and there with difficulty released; and three of the clerk's children, who remained in the house whilst he escaped into the church with the minister, were inhumanly suffered to perish in the flames.

The fate of the village of Barental was as shocking as that already related. The perfidy with which the French violated the articles of the convention, and the inhumanity with which they treated the inhabitants of the districts through which they passed, had determined the peasantry to arm themselves, and drive them out of their dwellings, the protection and security of which had been promised by the most solemn proclamations. So that when, upon the 6th of October, a horde of robbers attempted to plunder some houses in Barental, they were opposed by the inhabitants, who, after a vigorous resistance, were defeated with the loss of 5 killed, and 3 so desperately wounded that they soon afterwards expired. The rage of the conquerors now vented itself upon the whole of the unfortunate village, which after being plundered of every thing valuable and portable, was set on fire, and in a few hours, the church, 18 houses, and as many barns, were reduced to a heap of shapeless ruins. The greatest part of the inhabitants lost the whole of their property, and many years must pass away before they can recover from the state of poverty into which they were plunged by the events of that dreadful day.

The village of Durbheim was, upon the 7th of October, completely sacked, with the exception of the parsonage and two other houses; and as it was not expected that the French would penetrate into that sequestered valley, no precautions had been taken, and every thing of value fell into the hands of the soldiers; notwithstanding which they searched the newly made

graves, and broke open the coffins, in hopes of finding some treasure interred with the dead bodies.

They not only indulged in drinking to the most beastly excess, but, taking the cocks out of the casks, they suffered the wine to run out upon the cellar floor. They also led away 31 horses from this small village, and made the minister exchange a favourite saddle-horse, valued at 36 louis, for two half-starved ponies, which they had stolen from a neighbouring farmer. Upon the 9th of October, the village was again visited by six hussars, who riding up to the parsonage with the most terrifying menaces, demanded either a cask of wine or a present of six louis, and upon being refused, not only swore that they would burn the village, but actually fired into the houses, and spread universal consternation. The peasantry, who soon gathered together, prevented any farther mischief, and upon the following day, four of these banditti were taken prisoners by an Austrian patrol, as they were marauding in an out-lying hamlet. Upon the same day, the minister of another village was carried in fetters before general Moreau, and accused of having excited the people in his village to take up arms, and defend themselves against the assaults of their enemies; for which he and five of the peasants were condemned to be hanged, and were saved from execution with the greatest difficulty, and after suffering, during some time, all the anguish attendant upon the expectation of a cruel and ignominious death.

WATERDINGEN,

A village in Suabia, containing 453 inhabitants.

UPON the first days of October, a detachment of the army of the Rhine and Moselle over-ran this village, and distinguished itself by such excesses as cannot fail of stamping the *Great Nation* with everlasting infamy. Not satisfied with the anticipation of their wishes by the inhabitants, they furiously ran about the street with drawn swords and cocked pistols, broke into houses, rifled the different apartments, carried away provisions, kitchen utensils, bedding, and wearing apparel, and wantonly destroyed

stroyed what they could not convey away; so that the losses of the different proprietors amounted, upon the most moderate computation, to 21,000 florins, or nearly £.2,000 sterling. Thirty-six horses, 96 swine, two bullocks fit for the slaughter-house, two calves, 150 geese, and a great quantity of poultry, formed one part of their spoil; and the minister of the parish, who was the principal sufferer, lost 60 louis in cash, much silver plate, all his kitchen furniture, nearly all his clothes and household linen, 5 beds, 35 sacks of corn, and a large quantity of flour. Such of the corn and flour as they could not carry away, they rendered useless by mixing with dust, ashes, and ordure; they also broke in pieces the looking-glasses, wardrobes, and other household furniture, tore the books and pictures, destroyed the crucifixes, incessantly vilified the name of their Creator, and the most sacred things, and drove the minister out of his house, after dangerously wounding him with their sabres. In the church, they broke the pyx, trampled under foot the consecrated host, threw down the images, carried away such of the communion furniture as was valuable and useful to them, clothed themselves in the sacerdotal robes, and paraded the streets on horseback, roaring out the most obscene and blasphemous songs and ballads.

Humanity shudders, and the blood runs cold, at the relation of the more than brutal ferocity and lust with which the female sex was dishonoured by these monsters. Three women, already past their seventieth year, six lying in women, four far advanced in their pregnancy, and 12 young girls, were, by their outrages, brought almost to the gates of death. Even children, thirteen years of age, lost their innocence and their health, in the constrained presence of others still younger than themselves; and five men, who attempted to protect the honour of their wives, were trampled under foot, and left half dead with severe wounds from the broad swords of these atrocious villains.

Of DUHEM, the General of Division,
At Fribourg, in Brisgaw, in the Circle of Suabia.

UPON the 12th of October, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, orders were received to prepare quarters, in a gentleman's house, for a French general and four officers; soon after which appeared the general of division Duhem, and a suite of 30 or 40 officers, several privates, and servants, who were received with the greatest complaisance. But the general, in a commanding tone, gave orders that a dinner, fit for a republican general and 25 of his retinue, should be provided at five o'clock, and he added, that he expected to be in all respects treated and attended according to his rank and dignity. Six rooms and the saloon were immediately opened; but the servants of the house not being able, in the hurry and confusion, to find the keys of the other apartments, the general threatened to break open the doors, and his aide-de-camp began to talk about cudgels and horsewhips. Before I proceed, let me relate an anecdote of this aide-de-camp, highly characteristic of him and his associates: Duhem having issued an order that the magistrates of Fribourg should furnish the instruments used in the Turkish music, and they having represented to the aide-de-camp the impossibility of obeying so unreasonable a demand, that shameless reprobate replied, "that if they would procure him a couple of handsome girls, they might keep the Turkish music for themselves."

The general, officers, and privates passed their whole time at the table, and every exertion was made to satisfy their gluttony, but in vain; for upon the 13th of October general Duhem, after bitterly complaining of his ordinary fare, with many threats commanded the delivery of 20 pounds weight of sugar, 16 of coffee, 16 of rice, and 18 lemons, which he had no sooner received, than he made a further demand of 50 bottles of champagne, and 30 bottles of sweet wine; and the next morning, before his departure, he issued a fresh order for 50 more bottles of champagne, which he received and conveyed away. Neither were his servants idle; for in the afternoon of
the

the 13th of October, they broke into the saddle house, and plundered it of all the saddles and harness they could find; and though the general and some of his officers saw them carry away their spoil, and were applied to for redress, they did not choose to listen to the complaint, but suffered the booty to be carried off. When Duhem and his followers quitted the house, upon the 14th of October, it was discovered that they had left in their apartments and beds the most filthy traces of their existence, and that they had stolen several pairs of sheets and a handsome counterpane, and rifled a portmanteau of its contents. The upper part of this house had been previously plundered by a commissary's assistant in July, and was now again publicly robbed, not by the ungovernable soldiery, but by a general, who affected to talk about discipline, and by his officers and servants. A French lieutenant had indeed been degraded and sent to the galleys for levying a trifling contribution when the French first appeared at Fribourg; but that was done only to deceive the Germans until they had got a firm footing in the country, after which the incendiaries, murderers, and plunderers of all descriptions were suffered to commit their ravages with impunity.

H E D I N G E N,

A Franciscan convent, and two farm-houses, in the county of Sigmaringen, near the Danube, and in the Circle of Suabia.

UPON the fifth of October, whilst a column of the army of the Rhine and Moselle was retreating towards Switzerland, a party of the infantry marched across the fields, plundered the two farm-houses, stormed the convent, stripped the priests and their servants even of their shoes and neckcloths, and either carried away or destroyed all the bedding, and every thing else they could discover; and two cavalry officers, who appeared to have more humanity than their comrades, coming up and ordering them to desist, were grossly insulted, deprived of their pistols, and put to flight by the soldiers with their sabres. The church was pillaged of the sacerdotal garments and communion plate, and the greatest indignities were offered

offered to every thing that is deemed sacred. These excesses continued from eleven in the morning until four in the afternoon; and the friars, after repeated blows, and threats of immediate death, lost almost every thing but their lives.

SCHWANDORF,

A village in the Austrian part of Suabia.

To this place the 8th of October was a day of terror and calamity; and as the report of the French cruelties had already reached the ears of the inhabitants, the women and children fled, with some of their valuable effects, into an adjoining wood, hoping to be there secure from the attacks of the soldiers, who were now upon their retreat, and entered the village, to the number of 3,000. Some of them stopped at the parsonage, and demanded wine; but whilst the minister was giving orders for its delivery, they dragged him into the cellar, and robbed him of his watch, whilst others stole his horses out of the adjoining pasture. In the mean time the heroes who, in the language of their employers, *had not ceased to deserve well of their country*, began pillaging with such violence and rapacity, that the inhabitants were driven by despair to attempt the protection of their property, which enraged the aggressors so much, that they threatened to burn the village, and would probably have done so, but for the exertions of some officers, and for the flight of the peasants, whom they pursued towards the wood, where the shrieks of the women and children presently discovered their retreat. When the soldiers had here satisfied their rapacity, and plundered the poor fugitives of nearly all that they possessed, they completed the tragedy with outrages the most shocking to humanity. Married women were dishonoured in the presence of their husbands and children; and young girls were despoiled of their innocence under the eyes of their parents and companions. Even women who had borne children only eight or ten days, were not safe from the disgraceful outrages of these in-

human

human wretches, who dragged the infants from their arms, and insensible to the agonizing screams of the sufferers, threatened the resistance of their mothers with instant death.

EMMINGEN,

A village in Suabia, in the principality of Furstenberg.

UPON the morning of the seventh of October, the peace of this village was suddenly and unexpectedly disturbed by 600 or 700 Republicans, who, to the character of soldiers, added that of robbers, miscreants, and barbarians, destitute of feeling and of decency. They broke into the dwelling of one of the principal farmers, carried off all the provisions, linen, and wearing apparel, even of the children, and stole a waggon and four horses, with which they conveyed away their booty; and most of the houses in the village underwent a similar fate. But the minister of the parish was one of the greatest sufferers; for not even age or severe illness could protect him from ill usage, and from being dragged from his bed under pretence that he had concealed his money; after which they broke open his wardrobe and coffers, and carried away all his money, plate, household linen, and wearing apparel.

The prince of Furstenberg's steward, who, in attempting to escape, fell down and dislocated his ankle, was pursued by the soldiers, and nearly beaten to death; after which they pillaged his habitation, and committed every species of enormity. Several young girls and married women fell a sacrifice to the outrageous passions of these ruffians, against whom even grey hairs afforded no protection; for an old woman near 70 years of age was successively dishonoured by four of these monsters, whose brutality words are wanting sufficiently to reprobate.

BIBURG,

B I B U R G,

A small but pleasant village near Augsburg in Suabia*.

UPON the 20th of September, part of the French army retreated through Biburg, under the command of general Duhem, who, with a retinue of 45 men and 50 horses, took up his abode at the country-house of a gentleman of Augsburg, and commanded a large supply of provisions for the table. But the lesser robbers, upon their march towards Bavaria, had so plundered the village, that there was but little left for the greater; and he had fortunately brought with him a cask of wine, stolen by his orders out of a cellar at Augsburg. His followers, however, ransacked every part of the house, and the soldiers either carried away or destroyed what had been left by their predecessors; every thing was deemed lawful prey, and scarcely a house escaped without being completely pillaged. The beer in the casks was wasted, large branches of fruit-trees were cut off, and even the water-pipes were cut to pieces, so that the village remained four days destitute of water. Women advanced in years, and girls who were hardly out of their childhood, were sacrificed to the passions of these savages; and a French officer, who attempted to put a stop to their brutality, was so desperately wounded by them, that he fell almost lifeless from his horse. Duhem, who demanded a quantity of sugar and coffee, and condescended to accept about three louis in their stead, marched out of Biburg the next morning, when it was discovered that the great general and his gang understood the art of thieving and desolating as well as the rest of the banditti; for they had carried away all the plate and linen, let all the wine run out of the casks in the cellar, and done all possible mischief to the furniture.

* An account of the infamous conduct of the French in this place was given in a pamphlet, called "The French at Biburg, in 1796, to the Directory at Paris," published in 1797 in Germany, by a person of veracity and reputation.

The damages sustained by this village, during four or five weeks, by the French, upon their march and their retreat, were very considerable; and several families were reduced to the greatest poverty and distress. Such are the blessings conferred upon their fellow creatures by the disciples of liberty and equality, the vile instruments of a few sanguinary and ambitious tyrants!

STOZINGEN,

A village in Suabia, containing 1,100 inhabitants, and belonging to the Count Stain, and others*.

WHEN the French entered this place, they testified some sort of respect for the articles of the convention, which had been purchased at so great a price; but upon the following day they threw off the mask, assumed their proper character of plunderers, and turned the contest against kings into war with the peasants and mechanics. But this was only a prelude to greater calamities; for general Vandamme having, either through ignorance or inattention, established his military chest at Stozingen, under a small guard, and an Austrian party, lying only five miles distant, having, in the course of their patrol, fallen in with and carried it off, and made the guard prisoners, the inhabitants were accused of having given information to the Austrians, and a detachment, under the command of colonel Lavallo, arrived upon the 10th of August, with orders to set fire to the village. Old and young, and women with infants at the breast, rending the air with their lamentations, hastily fled into the fields, and at four o'clock the cannons were pointed against the houses, whilst the hussars and chasseurs, with cocked pistols and drawn swords, prevented the flight of the few who had remained there. One woman was killed by them upon the spot, and another died two days afterwards

* The sufferings of this place are detailed at large in a German publication, called "Materials for the History of the War in Suabia, in 1796." The Germans hope these publications will operate as warnings to other nations.

in consequence of the blows she received upon the breast with the but-end of a pistol. Lavallo, after the most humiliating entreaties, at length yielded to the prayers of the clergy and other persons, and promised to spare the town upon payment of 1,000 louis, which condition, though tending to their ruin, was complied with; but most of the houses were pillaged, several women were abused in the most brutal manner, and five of the most opulent inhabitants were led away as hostages, one of whom was tied between two horses, and forced to keep up with them on foot, even when upon the full trot. Neither was the bloody and rapacious mind of Vandamme satisfied with the payment of the 1,000 louis; for he insisted upon, and actually received 500 more, which, with the subsequent losses of the inhabitants by different parties during the retreat of the French, raised the damage to considerably more than £. 2,500 sterling, and reduced many industrious persons to the greatest distresses.

The mind recoils and the hand almost refuses to do its office in recording the crimes committed by these plunderers in several neighbouring villages, where they burned, destroyed, pillaged, and violated, according to their wonted system, and where, with the malignity of demons, they broke even the crutches of a cripple, because he possessed nothing worth their stealing from him.

And against such wild beasts will not every arm be lifted up, should they again attempt to make an attack upon our country?

A Y S T E T T E N,

A village in the neighbourhood of Augsberg, in the Circle of Suabia.

UPON the 22d of August this place was visited by a party of French, who broke open the cellar in the castle, drank or carried away a large quantity of foreign wine, stole or destroyed much of the furniture, and conveyed away their spoil in a carriage drawn by two fine horses, which they took out of the stable. From that period
until

until the middle of September, not a day passed but the village was either plundered by soldiers or oppressed by commissaries armed with requisitions; and as they constantly rendered useless what they could not carry away, the damages sustained by the inhabitants amounted to upwards of 3,000*l.* sterling. But no adequate idea can be given of the cruelties inflicted upon the men, and of the outrages committed against the women, both here and in the neighbouring towns and hamlets; it is, however, worthy of observation, that these self-named protectors of the peasantry seemed to take the greatest delight in robbing the houses, and destroying the peace of that class of people, whose protection and welfare they and their employers have so frequently declared to be the chief objects of their ambition.

ENG E N,

A small town in Suabia, in the Principality of Furstenberg.

ALTHOUGH the destructive steps of the French were every where marked with blood, cruelty, and rapine, no place suffered in so great a degree as the town of Engen; and the most unfeeling must tremble, the most patient be inspired with desire of revenge, and the most obstinate partisan of Frenchmen and French principles must be converted, and even filled with horror, at the relation of all the criminal excesses committed in this little town by the Republicans*. But I will spare my readers the pain of perusing a repetition of such calamities, and shall only

* We no longer hear the cry, which, before the passage of the Rhine at Kehl by the Republicans, was but too common in some of the German towns and villages: "*Oh! if the French would but come; then should we be happy and free!*" Dreadful experience has cured the peasants and the citizens of this pernicious and erroneous opinion. Yet still do there remain a few listy spirits, who are not made wise by experience, and who not only forgive the disgraceful conduct of the French, but endeavour even to justify it. But these are men, of whom Solomon, with prophetic spirit, saith— "*Though thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.*"

mention

mention some of the most atrocious actions of these pretended friends to liberty and to mankind.

A man happening indiscreetly to express his joy at the retreat of the French, and the near approach of the Austrians, was shot at and mortally wounded; and another, who had expressed the same satisfaction, and had attempted to defend his property, was deliberately shot, after tearing his flesh to pieces, and pulling his tongue out by the roots. Married women and girls, mothers and their daughters, who had hoped for safety in the church, were violated at the foot of the altar; and neither the venerable age of seventy or eighty years, nor the most loathsome disorders and deformities, could check the passions of the invaders, who left behind them traces of diseases, whose very names had until then been unknown in this sequestered district. All the archives in the town-house were wantonly destroyed, the churches in every way profaned and defiled, and even the crosses upon the graves of the dead were objects of their fury and passion for destruction.

But it was reserved for general Ferino to crown these misdeeds with an action eternally disgraceful to his name and country; for upon the 9th of October, under pretence of the treachery of the inhabitants, he commanded one of the suburbs to be set on fire; and in order to prevent any attempts to quench the flames, he surrounded it with a guard. In a short time thirty-three houses and barns, with all their contents, were reduced to ashes and ruins, and only the church and four cottages escaped the fury of the conflagration; but having received advice at midnight that the Austrians, to the number of 10,000, were in pursuit of him, Ferino became so furious, that he ordered another suburb to be set on fire, and twelve houses fell a sacrifice to the inhumanity of the Republicans, who left the place, followed by the curses and bitter lamentations of numerous families and individuals, whose ruin they had thus wantonly accomplished.

I have purposely omitted the detail of the various acts of plundering and destroying, and shall close this melancholy account by stating, that the losses sustained by the people of this town and twelve neighbouring villages, amounted

amounted at the lowest computation to 373,768 florins, or more than £.33,000 sterling.

OF GENERAL TARREAU,

At Hofen, a Benedictine convent, in Suabia, near the Lake of Constance.

SEVERAL of the leaders of the French hordes have, by their misdeeds, for ever connected their names with infamy; but general Tarreau united in himself the several bad qualities of the rest, and cannot be mentioned without horror and detestation. The most unbounded rapacity, insatiable cruelty, intemperance, thirst of revenge, vulgar insolence, contempt of every thing sacred and decent, and the disavowal of all the feelings of humanity, formed the basis of the character of this man, who in no country but in France, and there only under the auspices of such a revolution, could ever have been entrusted with the command of an army. Some of his monstrous excesses have already been recorded, and it remains only to be told, that when the French were obliged to give way before the Austrians, this man, raging like a tiger that had lost its prey, arrived upon the 22d of September at Hofen, where he established his head quarters, and with his worthy associate Labroussé, and his confidential valet Laguerre, endeavoured to make himself a small compensation for the loss of the spoils of Vienna, of which the French had thought themselves secure. His whole character will best be known from the following dreadful declaration, which was continually upon his lips, that "He only repented of having at any time acted with humanity, and of not having converted into dust and ashes all the cities, villages, and convents he had seen upon his march." His life at Hofen was one continued scene of cruelty, robbery, intemperance, and debauchery; and upon the 23d of September he sent a requisition to Constance of 6,000 pints of brandy, to be delivered in 24 hours, under pain of being given up to be plundered by the soldiery. No more than half the quantity demanded could be found in Constance,

Constance, and was sent off towards head quarters by water, but was detained by contrary winds; upon which Tarreau threatened not only to set fire to the town, but to put to death the chief magistrate, and several others whom he detained as hostages, and who after passing the night under the apprehensions of approaching death, would probably have fallen a sacrifice to the passion of this sanguinary commander, if the brandy had not arrived in the morning before the hour appointed for their execution. The booty remained 3 days at head quarters, and was then sold by the commissary Stoublen to the neighbouring Swifs; nor did the French soldiers taste one drop of this liquor, which had been extorted under pretence that it was necessary for the army.

ANECDOTES of various French Generals, Officers, and Commissaries.

THAT not only privates, but that even officers of rank, either pillaged or divided the spoil, is proved by innumerable instances, of which we think it necessary only to notice the following. A carriage laden with plunder, belonging to an officer upon the staff, having broken down during the retreat of the French army, two of the inhabitants of the village of Eyken, where the accident happened, were obliged instantly to provide another conveyance, and re-load the booty, which was so speedily and well executed, that, contrary to their expectation, and to the usual practice of his comrades, he rewarded them with 16 pounds weight of tallow, and a complete set of joiners tools! Another officer of rank sold in the same village a bird cage and a Bohemian drinking glass for the sum of about sevenpence sterling; and at Rheinfelden, another officer having sold a horse to a Swifs of the canton of Basle for 9 louis, he no sooner received the money, than jumping upon the horse he galloped away, and disappeared both with the horse and money. A soldier having stripped a gentleman's servant of the boots he was wearing, was, upon the complaint of the servant to an officer, obliged to restore them;

them ; but the officer drawing them on, and finding that they fitted him, told the servant, in a jeering tone, that they were much too good for him, and strutted away with them. Whilst the French were at Donauwerth, a general officer, accompanied by two officers, and escorted by six hussars, espying some ducks and poultry in a farm-yard in a village through which they were riding, the officers dismounted, and whilst the general held their horses, they stole the ducks and fowls, and returned triumphantly to Donauwerth with their booty. When Tarreau had his head quarters at the imperial town of Wangen, he made a requisition of such a quantity of corn as it was impossible for the municipality to furnish; but the chief magistrate having received a hint that the general was very fond of cray-fish, he sent him a present of some out of an adjoining lake, famous in Suabia for those fish, with which the general was so pleased that he withdrew the demand for corn, but put in requisition all the cray-fish in the lake for the daily supply of his table, as long as he should remain there. As a companion to the foregoing anecdote we will mention, that, in a village near Wisbaden, upon the Rhine, one of the commissaries of the army of the Sambre and Meuse put in requisition not only all the wine belonging to the minister of the parish, but his glasses, bottles, kitchen furniture, table linen, and napkins for twelve persons, and even his housekeeper, to prepare the dinner ; and further informed him, that he must send to Wisbaden to purchase what they wanted, and what his house did not afford.

Some French soldiers having stolen a very fine horse out of a farmer's stable near Augsburg, he complained to the adjutant-general Houel, who promised him redress, but upon seeing the horse, thought proper to retain it for his own use. But it should seem as if Providence conived at this crime, as carrying its punishment along with it, for Houel was shortly after drowned in crossing the Leck, whilst riding the stolen horse, which worked its way through the water, and fortunately found its road back to its old master.

A republican general having upon the retreat taken up his quarters at the house of a clergyman, went
C quietly

quietly to bed, after demanding and receiving six shirts for himself and his followers; but his servants soon afterwards came to the clergyman with an order from their master to procure him a handsome bedfellow, which he refused, and threatened in case of ill-usage to alarm the peasantry; upon which they desired that they might be allowed to introduce one out of the village, to which he so strenuously objected, that, being few in number, they thought proper to desist from their demands. The next morning the general ordered his entertainer to give him his money; but he replied that some republican robbers had already deprived him of his watch and money, and had left him nothing but a dollar, which the general condescended to pocket, and then rode away.

Ecclesiastics of every description and every religion, and particularly the professed, of both sexes, seemed the chief objects of republican malevolence, immorality, and cruelty, in which the soldiers were led on and encouraged by their officers. A respect for decency and for the sufferers forbids us to particularize the numberless well authenticated proofs of this assertion, and to name the places where aged priests were forced to the commission of the most indecent and immoral actions, and where nuns were stripped of their garments, and obliged to dance in a state of nature with the officers and soldiers. At a small town in Suabia, the friars and nuns belonging to two neighbouring convents were convened by command of the French officers, bound fast together face to face, with their hands tied behind their backs, and each was obliged to drink a cup full of coffee, containing a strong emetic; and in that position did they remain until the medicine had operated, whilst the officers rejoiced and shouted as if they had performed some heroic action.

And here let us conclude the detail of crimes, surpassing in cruelty and variety any excesses ever before committed by the soldiers of a civilized country, and rendered more hideous, when we consider that the perpetrators proclaim themselves the most humane and enlightened people of the earth, and endeavour to seduce the subjects of other countries from their allegiance, by the

specious but treacherous offer of a liberty pregnant with mischief, and of an equality which has been found to be impracticable.

I KNOW not how I can better terminate this account, than by giving an extract from a letter, dated Stuttgart, November the first, 1796, and written to me by the friend, from whom I afterwards received the publication, from which I have now offered some translated selections to the public. His situation, employment, and thorough knowledge of every part of the Circle of Suabia, added to his abilities and love of investigation, make him completely qualified to procure and furnish the best information upon the subject; and a confidential intimacy of nearly ten years has supplied me with manifold proofs of his integrity and love of truth.

A. A.

“ THE army of general Moreau has, in its retreat from Augsburg and the Lake of Constance to Huningen, left every where the most dismal traces of plunder and destruction, as well as of horrors, such as barbarians only could commit. The inhabitants, roused to despair by the shocking behaviour of the enemy, rose in arms; and Moreau was forced to retreat with his army in as compact a body as he could, lest his baggage and detached corps should be destroyed by the peasantry. The Austrian troops, from the serjeant downwards, and in the cavalry, from the captain downwards, are certainly, for their discipline and cool courage the first soldiers in the world, and want not, like the French, intoxication, or the other means employed to make them advance and to do wonders; but the want of skill in the commanding officers beggars all description.”

“ The behaviour of the French army in Upper Suabia is a black catalogue of plunder, exactions, and violation of all the laws of humanity; the grenadiers and heavy cavalry alone shewed any traces of ancient discipline and behaved like men; the commanding officers were the first amongst the robbers, and were

" equalled only by the volunteers; and several humane
 " men in the station of inferior officers fell victims in
 " attempting to maintain even the most common rules
 " of humanity; whereas the Austrian officer is always
 " perfect master of his soldiers. When the French
 " enter a town, the commanding officers begin by
 " bargaining with the magistracy for order and good dis-
 " cipline; but when they have received the stipulated
 " sum, they connive at the intemperate conduct of the
 " troops, and generally share the booty. When Van-
 " damme arrived at Tuttlingen, he bargained for 75
 " louis for himself and 50 for his aide-de-camp, to-
 " gether with a complete suit of wearing apparel, which
 " they had no sooner received than the soldiers began
 " to plunder, and during 24 hours committed every
 " excess that can be imagined. When general Moreau
 " was here, his linen was observed to be marked with a
 " variety of letters, which proved that he had stolen it
 " from different persons, or received it as his share of
 " plunder. One of his aides-de-camp having been taken
 " ill at a gentleman's house, one of the servants in ar-
 " ranging his baggage found a complete suit of cloaths
 " (apparently belonging to a child of eight years of
 " age) which he had stolen; and another, upon quitting
 " a house where he had been quartered, rewarded the
 " trouble of the servant maid with a present of three cook
 " maid's aprons. After the battle which had been fought
 " near Canstadt, the French army staid all night upon
 " the field of battle; and when I soon afterwards went
 " out to see it, I found among the carcases of the horses
 " a woman's apparel and a fan. A friend of mine
 " having general Vandamme quartered in his house,
 " was asked by one of his aides-de-camp to exchange
 " an elegant light saddle for a heavy one of his, to which
 " my friend reluctantly consented; but the next morn-
 " ing the knave rode off with both the saddles, one
 " upon the other.

" The sagacity of the troops in discovering what had
 " been concealed exceeds all that can be imagined.
 " My brother in law had hid plate, money, and other va-
 " luable effects to the value of 5000 florins (or about
 " £. 450)

“ (L. 450) in an old tower next his house, and thought
 “ himself secure by causing the tower to be overthrown,
 “ so that the treasure lay concealed under the ruins;
 “ but they discovered it, by observing that some of the
 “ stones had moss upon that part which lay downwards,
 “ and none upon the upper part; and they speedily made
 “ their way to the deposit. He was also robbed in less
 “ than half an hour of effects to the value of 5000
 “ florins more, by 40 chasseurs, who broke open his
 “ coffers, tore down the wainscot in the rooms, and
 “ led away six horses out of his stable; but upon appli-
 “ cation to general La Roche, the 6 horses were re-
 “ stored, and the soldiers were driven off. That general
 “ then expressed much concern at what had happened,
 “ but thought proper to seize the public chest entrusted
 “ to my brother, to whom he offered to give a receipt
 “ for 150 louis more than it contained, saying, that by
 “ so doing he might recover from the public a part of
 “ what he had lost by plunder; he could not conceive
 “ why my brother refused it, and betrayed not the
 “ slightest symptom of that common honesty which pro-
 “ hibits such a breach of trust.”

A D D R E S S

TO THE

PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN,

BY ANTHONY AUFRERE, ESQ.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,

THE preceding pages will, I hope, have convinced you, that no confidence is to be placed in the assertions of those who endeavour to persuade you of the good conduct and discipline of the French armies, and that no faith is to be put in the promises and declarations of a people, who, under high-sounding terms, have deluded many feeble minds into a belief of their assurances, in order that they might the more easily accomplish their purposes of conquest, rapine, and desolation. One of the most brilliant writers of that nation long since told us, that his countrymen partook of the character both of the monkey and the tiger; and his comparison will be found to be strictly just in the latter instance, if we look back into history, and examine the accounts of the behaviour of the French armies during the various wars carried on by their respective monarchs; but it was reserved for us to remark, that since the æra of the French Revolution they have approximated still more to the nature of the tiger, by that ravenous appetite for prey, and that insatiable thirst for blood, which are the characteristics of that animal, and which they are now desirous of gratifying in this wealthy, populous, and happy island. You must have seen too, that this observation applies not only to the common soldiers in the armies of France, the refuse of that licentious nation, but that it is equally applicable to the French officers of every description, and that the few in an inferior rank amongst them, who betrayed any symptoms of humanity, and any wish to maintain discipline

discipline and order, fell victims to the insubordination of the troops, and to the culpable negligence of the several commanders.

In the early part of the French revolution, several men of letters, and other well-informed and liberal-minded persons in Germany, entertained a hope that the empire, divided into a variety of petty states, subject to very defective forms of government, would derive advantage from the emancipation of a powerful nation, and that some steps would be taken, without insurrection or disturbance, towards abolishing the many remains of feudal rights and privileges, by which the middle and lower classes of people in Germany are so much humbled and oppressed. It is indeed to be lamented, that such odious distinctions should be preserved, and such marked divisions in society should obtain in Germany, as justified the mass of people, and particularly the men of talents and accomplishments, in labouring to eradicate such abuses, and to substitute a new order of things more favourable to freedom, commerce, and society. The exclusion of plebeians of learning and science from the enjoyment of offices of state, from the various marks of distinction so flattering to man, and even from all familiar intercourse with the nobility, is too common in the empire, and too galling to men who are conscious of considerable intellectual endowments, not to have excited a hope, at the dawn of the French revolution, that its accomplishment would ameliorate the lot of the inferior classes of subjects, and secure to all ranks of people that *Equality of Rights*, to which they felt they had so just a claim; but when that revolution testified in its progress, that its object was not the establishment of wholesome liberty and a just equality of rights, but that it tended to the extinction of civil and religious liberty, to the destruction of all order and happiness in society, and to the gratification of the boundless ambition of the French; that its decrees were written in blood, and its edicts promulgated by the sword; the advocates for reform in Germany quickly saw how much reason they had to deprecate the introduction of a system, which, instead of administering relief to their

complaints, was teeming with the most destructive evils. None but men of desperate fortunes, of wild ambition, and of heated imaginations, continued to wish for the importation of French principles and the display of the republican standard; and it is worthy of remark, that throughout that extensive country, the French armies were not joined by any of the inhabitants, except the very refuse of the people; and that the subjects of the various princes of the empire did not dishonour their country and themselves, either by a disposition to revolt, or by a demand of concessions, which the posture of affairs might have rendered it imprudent to refuse. Nor do I except the inhabitants of the districts upon the left bank of the Rhine, whose geographical situation exposed them to the inroads of the French, and has finally subjected them to the will of the conqueror, without a prospect of relief from their countrymen upon the opposite side of the river. But I am persuaded that the German territories annexed to the empire of France can only be retained by the strong arm of despotic power, and that the people languish to be restored to that government, from which they have been severed, and which, however defective, secured them such blessings, as under their new masters they are never likely to experience.

If then the people of a country, indisputably subject to many serious grievances, continue firm in their allegiance, and reject with scorn the principles which have been insidiously held out to them under the most delusive names, and painted in the most dazzling colours, shall we, enjoying the greatest portion of rational liberty of any nation in the world—shall Britons, who with reason boast of the most perfect equality of rights, to whom are open all the avenues to wealth, honours, power, and distinctions—shall this country, I say, the envied residence of freedom, justice, and science, not stand equally firm to our constitution; and shall we barter our happiness and independence for revolutionary principles, conceived in sin, and propagated in iniquity? No—Let us cling to our religion, our laws, and our constitution, as the main supports of every thing that is dear

dear to us ; let us firmly unite in rejecting every doctrine that in this season of difficulty tends to innovation and reform ; and let us triumph in the reflection, that we have magnanimously and with little detriment withstood the open attacks and still more dangerous intrigues of our enemies, whilst other countries have been despoiled of their happiness and reduced to the most abject dependance, either by the arms and specious promises of the invader, or by the treachery, weakness, and discord of their own inhabitants. Neither let us give ear to the pernicious and ill-timed declamations of those who represent us as hastening to destruction, who describe us as a people enervated by luxury, destitute of vigour, and deficient in resources, and who wish us to make concessions to that enemy, whose ambition has been already fed by too much conquest, and avowedly aims at our erasure from the list of nations. Doubtless the times are such as call for our most serious attention and for our most vigorous exertions ; but although luxury, the constant attendant upon wealth, has advanced with rapid strides, and though vice in divers shapes has pervaded almost every rank, yet we are not so enfeebled either in mind or body as not to feel for the honour of our country, and not to stretch out our arms with alacrity in its defence. Our armies, though overpowered by superior numbers, supported upon the continent their ancient character for bravery and firmness. Our navy rides triumphant upon the seas, and has upon every occasion maintained our superiority over such of our enemies as have successively ventured to dispute it. Our yeomanry, a bold and independent race, are trained to arms, and eager to signalize their loyalty. Every town of importance contains a body of volunteers, composed of persons of character and property, and attached to the welfare of their country and their king ; and our several regiments of the line, of fencibles and of militia, are for the most part composed of young and healthy men, of unquestionable and approved fidelity, who yield not in true courage to the enemy ; who are commanded by the flower of the nation, and who form a body of men, more numerous than any that the Directory of

France can cause to be transported hither, and superior in equipment, discipline, and the justice of the cause in support of which they are enrolled.

The demands upon us for the maintenance of so large an establishment, and for the defence of our distant possessions, are indeed great—but they are unavoidable. Public credit has perhaps suffered by a variety of circumstances incidental to almost every war, and our commerce is necessarily obstructed by the attempts of the enemy to intercept our numerous vessels, which every wind wafts out of every port in the island, laden with the produce of the country, and destined for the various quarters of the world. But the momentary shock of public credit has been retrieved, and confidence re-established; our trade, with all its difficulties and obstructions, far surpasses that of the other nations of the globe, and continues to enrich both the country, the merchant, and the manufacturer; and though the burdens imposed upon us are weighty, yet they are small in comparison with the magnitude and value of the objects for which we are contending. Few are the instances where the taxes have caused any material alterations in the mode of life, or given rise to any privation to which it was at all difficult to submit; and supposing that we should be called upon to contribute more, to give even a considerable share of our substance in order to counteract the designs of the French, and ensure the safety, honour, and prosperity of the kingdom, there are, I hope, few who would not cheerfully make the greatest sacrifices, both in wealth and in the comforts of life, rather than endanger the existence of their religion, the well-being of their country, the safety of their property, and the honour of their wives and children, by withholding that aid which is necessary to prevent the inroads of an enemy. He may be truly said to employ his money most profitably, who gives a due proportion of it to the state, for the purpose of protecting every thing he holds most dear; and if his patriotism is so lukewarm as not to induce him to such a measure, self-interest will surely point it out to him as adviseable. It is no new thing to represent our resources as exhausted, our commerce as
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in a state of languor, and our public credit so lowered that a national bankruptcy would inevitably ensue; the publications of the times will shew you that it was the constant topic of those who were adverse to the measures of government under every administration since the period of our happy revolution; and we all of us recollect, that it was the inexhaustible theme of those who, either as public or as private men, declaimed against the conduct of ministers during the American war. But though in the speeches of orators, and in the essays of political writers, we have been so frequently described as tottering upon the brink of a precipice, yet have we continued to run our career of prosperity and glory, have set at nought the idle predictions of the timid, and have refuted the specious arguments and calculations of the factious. Ten succeeding years of peace enabled us to extinguish a portion of the national debt, and to carry our manufactures and trade to an extent unexampled in the annals of Great Britain; and but for the eruption of that volcano, whose lava has proved so destructive of the existence and happiness of thousands, the financial operations of the minister, and the successful enterprizes of the wealthy and the industrious, would have relieved us from great part of those burdens which had been imposed upon us during preceding wars. The peace which must in due time take place will again enable us to reduce our establishment, to lighten our burdens, and to extend our commerce; and as upon a candid examination you will find that our resources are by no means exhausted, you will not hearken to the insinuations of those who would mislead you by erroneous computations, and the feigned apprehensions of a national bankruptcy.

How much, my friends, must you rejoice when you compare our present situation with that of the greater part of the countries upon the continent!

Holland, so lately the seat of freedom, commerce, industry, and affluence, having been pillaged by its good ally the republic of France, and forced to declare war against Great Britain, by which it lost both its mari-

time importance and a valuable portion of its foreign possessions, presents at this moment the sad spectacle of a country divided against itself, governed by the intrigues and awed by the arms of France, destitute of commerce, crippled in its navy, defaced almost from amongst the nations of Europe, and reduced to a mere skeleton of that power which once so nobly contended for real liberty, and disputed with this island the empire of the main. If I ask you to what this mighty downfall is to be attributed, you will not hesitate to answer, that it was effected by the introduction of French principles, and by the united efforts of the crafty and the credulous.

The *Austrian Netherlands*, long renowned for agriculture, manufactures, industry, and opulence, now exhibit the same melancholy picture of languor, poverty, and insignificance, rendered doubly galling to the inhabitants by the iron yoke of servitude, which their republican tyrants have imposed upon them. The *Foyeuse Entrée*, that boasted charter of their liberties, for which they contended with successive sovereigns, is now lost in the unintelligible and impracticable code of a French constitution; the splendid churches of a people, singularly attached to their mode of faith and its solemnities, are plundered of their ornaments and prostituted to the vilest uses, and the Belgic name is dishonoured by a slavish dependence upon its haughty and oppressive conquerors.

The *principality of Liege*, the *dutchy of Juliers*, the cities of *Aix* and *Cologne*, and the beautiful and fertile countries upon the banks of the *Rhine* and the *Moselle*, lie prostrate at the feet of those who had promised them liberty and independence, and, under the name of loans, are forced to contribute the last resources of an impoverished territory, for the purpose of enabling the Directory of France to carry on a war against this country, with which they never were at variance, and with which they had maintained a prosperous and extensive trade. Nor have the more remote cities of *Hamburgh*, *Bremen*,
and

and *Lubeck*, been able to avoid the outstretched arm of French rapacity and power ; but have been compelled to purchase a dubious tranquillity by the sacrifice of several millions.

The *empire of Germany*, abandoned by one of its most powerful and natural protectors, pillaged by the enemy, and rendered during several months the theatre of carnage and desolation, is upon the eve of sacrificing its constitution, and a vast extent of fertile country, with the feeble and doubtful hope of still maintaining its independence, and preserving the remainder of its territorial possessions.

You have seen the *Austrian* and *Imperial* eagles flying in every direction before the tri-coloured standard of the republic, and the *Emperor of Germany* humbly suing for peace, in order to save from impending ruin the capital of his hereditary dominions. He has been compelled to abandon to the ambition of the Directory, his Belgic and Italian provinces, the ancient heritage of his family ; and you have seen him reduced to a situation so humiliating, as to be under the necessity of profiting by the perfidy of France, in receiving as an exchange the city of *Venice*, and some provinces, which, under the solemn assurances of the French, had thrown off the yoke of aristocracy, and had established another form of government under the avowed protection of the Directory.

The treacherous character of the French is no where more fully displayed than in their behaviour to the *Venetian* people ; for after deluding them with the hopes of liberty, equality, and independence, they pillaged the city of its treasures, destroyed its most splendid institutions and costly ornaments, took possession of its most valuable islands, plundered it of its navy, and finished their perfidious work by delivering up the people to the government of a stranger and of a monarch whom they had always affected to consider as a despot and as a decided enemy to their maxims of liberty and equality.

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You cannot hesitate to regard *Italy* as entirely submitted to the will of the Directory; for the *Cisalpine*, *Ligurian*, and *Roman* republics, are only branches of the same noxious plant which overshadows the territory of France; and the remaining sovereigns of dismembered *Piedmont*, *Parma*, *Tuscany*, and the *Two Sicilies*, already tremble in their palaces, and will prolong their political existence but a few months, by their humiliating submission to the decrees of the *Great Nation*; for the conduct of the French soldiery in some, and of the republican emissaries in others of the dominions of those princes, will rouse the people to revenge—the dignity of the French nation will be offended—and the same mockery that was lately practised at Rome, will be employed for the subversion of those states, and with the same success.

When you cast your eyes from Italy across the Mediterranean, you perceive the mighty realm of *Spain* reduced to the most melancholy state of dependence, and a prince of the House of *Bourbon* compelled not only to make peace, but to enter into a close alliance with the assassins and destroyers of his family, and to declare war against this country, with whom it is his undoubted interest to live in the strictest bonds of amity and concord. You will observe, too, that the French have it in contemplation to revolutionize the kingdom of *Portugal*; and perhaps I am not rash in predicting, that the same army which is allowed to traverse Spain, for the purpose of subverting the government of *Portugal*, will in its progress scatter the seeds of revolution, and reap a very ample harvest upon its return.

Even *Switzerland*, so happy—so peaceful—and so respected—has not escaped the storm; but after having for some time averted its fury by the steady care and wisdom of its pilots, now appears upon the point of yielding, and of being driven at the mercy of those whose pleasure it seems to be to wreck every form of government upon the hideous rocks and shoals of liberty and equality.

Such

Such is the miniature delineation of the actual state of a great portion of the Continent, and such are the humiliations to which different countries have been successively reduced by the power, ambition, and machinations of democratic France, whose restless spirit of intrigue and thirst for universal dominion far surpasses the limits of those passions for which the rulers of the monarchy were ever distinguished, and whose means of attaining their object are rendered infinitely more dangerous by the artful tenor of their doctrines, and the insidious measures adopted in every country for their circulation.

If you attentively examine that apparently formidable power, that firebrand of Europe, you will find that it is indeed a Colossus, but that it is a Colossus composed of such heterogeneous materials, so disproportionably constructed, and so unsubstantially combined, that, like all things deficient in symmetry and harmony, it cannot long subsist entire, but must eventually be disorganized, and finally be crushed by its own weight.

If too you compare the condition of the people of that oppressed and distracted country, with that of the inhabitants of Great Britain, how greatly will you triumph in our happiness, prosperity, and freedom, and how justly will you exult in the reflection, that our abhorrence of French principles has saved us from being exposed to the same calamities and the same scenes of anarchy, injustice, cruelty, and bloodshed, which you know to have been exhibited upon that extensive theatre during the greater part of the last nine years !

If the armies of France have been every where triumphant, its navy has been so subdued and crushed as to be long since either disabled or intimidated from contending with us upon the ocean ; its trade, once so considerable, is now no more—the opulent nobility, whose wants, whether real or imaginary, gave bread to thousands, are dispersed and exiled—the manufactures, especially in articles of taste and elegance, with which the
French

French supplied all the wealthy nations of the globe, are long since gone to decay—agriculture languishes and sickens—and the shuttle has been exchanged for the musket, and the plough-share for the sabre. Requisition after requisition has torn the husband from his wife, the father from his children, and the laborious sons from the infirm and aged parent; and they have been sent either to be slain in the field by men with whom they have never been at enmity, or survive only to be tainted by the vices of a ferocious and dissolute banditti; their habits of industry are destroyed; their relish for domestic life is corrupted, and instead of returning to the loom and the vineyard, they abandon themselves to the most vicious practices, embrace the profession of robbers, and subsist by plundering and slaughtering their fellow-subjects. The public opinion is more watched, and the public censure more severely punished now than even under the old and abhorred system of spies and informers; and such are the restrictions upon the press, that the Journals at all adverse to the measures of the Directory have been suppressed; and if the French newspapers were to arraign the conduct of their rulers in any degree approaching the latitude which some of our democratic editors permit themselves, their presses would instantly be seized, and their conductors punished in the most exemplary manner; for the despots of France well know, that the press was one of the great instruments by which government was subverted, and their own power established, and they are determined that it shall not be converted to the purposes of their overthrow. All confidential intercourse is destroyed, and the social virtues, which the French possessed in so high a degree, as frequently to serve as a veil over their numerous vices and defects, are fled before terror and suspicion, and a long train of comfortless and gloomy passions.

If such, then, be the situation of all the countries in Europe that have submitted to the scourge of the Republicans, and if such and so calamitous be the condition of the conquerors themselves, what a grand and noble figure do we exhibit to surrounding nations, stand-

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ing, as we do, firm and erect amidst the storm, proudly determined not to submit to the will of the enemy, bravely resolving to sacrifice every comfort in support of our religion and our liberties, and still enjoying all those blessings of which other countries have in so short a period been bereaved! Our trade and manufactures, though not carried to that extent which a continuation of peace would have ensured them, still “proudly flourish through the state,” and far surpass the commercial enterprizes and successes of any other nation in the world. Agriculture, far from languishing during the war, has been pursued with unexampled vigour and prosperity; all our public institutions continue to thrive under the unremitting assiduity of their governors, and the ceaseless generosity of the public; and the national benevolence has been most nobly displayed in the successive and ample subscriptions for the relief of our wounded sailors and soldiers, and for the benefit of the widows and orphans of those who have fallen whilst fighting the battles of their country. Our islands in the West Indies have been secured, and augmented by those of the enemy; our possessions in America have continued unmolested; our extensive and valuable territories in the East Indies have enjoyed the most profound tranquillity; the rock of Gibraltar defies the power of Spain, and we have increased our foreign possessions by the conquest of establishments in Asia and in Africa, whose worth will be duly estimated whenever the proper period for negotiation shall arrive. We have indeed condescended twice to send an ambassador to France, for the purpose of endeavouring to restore peace and tranquillity to Europe; but it was the condescending act of a great and powerful nation, desirous of putting a stop to the effusion of human blood, and not the humble suit of a people either doubtful of their own strength, or fearful of that of the enemy, nor yet the supplicating prayer of a country desolated by war, impoverished by plunder, terrified at approaching danger, and trembling under the uplifted knife of an unrelenting conqueror. The intercourse between man and man is preserved here unalloyed by
suspicion;

fuspicion; and the charms of fociety remain uncontrouled by terror; our wives and daughters fleep without apprehenfion of being difturbed by the violator or the affaffin, and our property is fecured by mild and well-difpenfed laws againft the public depredator and the private oppreffor. Each individual enjoys as great a portion of civil and religious liberty as is neceffary to the happinefs of man and compatible with the fafety of the kingdom; *equality of rights* flourifhes here in all its purity and vigour; for the greateft and moft opulent man in the country is, equally with the meaneft and moft indigent, amenable to the laws, if he tranfgrefs them; and perfons of the moft obfcure birth may, and frequently do, by their talents and merits, arrive at the greateft offices in church and ftate, and by their fervices in the army and navy obtain the higheft honours and diftinctions for themfelves and their pofterity.

Doubtlefs there are defects, and even great defects, in our laws, and manifold abufes in the various departments and branches of our conftitution and government, fuch as are incidental to all human eftablifhments, and fuch as muft in the courfe of time, and by the changes in manners and customs, attach to the beft imagined conftitutions, and the wifeft of all fublunary regulations. But when the enemy is at the gates, would you employ your time in difcuffing the plans of vifionary reformers, or is it a feafon to wrangle amongft ourfelves about the mode of redreffing imperfections, whofe duration has hitherto occafioned no material detriment to the conftitution, and which are not likely to be rendered incurable by a temporary delay of the remedies that may afterwards be thought neceffary? Sure I am, that you will coincide in opinion with me, that the period moft fuited to the examination of real and pretended grievances, is that when we fhall ceafe to be engaged in an arduous and intereffing conteft, and when all ranks and descriptions of fubjects fhall be at liberty to attend to the propofals of thofe who wifh to rectify the errors in the conftitution by prudent and temperate applications, without recurring to the dangerous and violent prefcription of radical reform.

With

With pleasure will you contemplate this unvarnished picture of our situation, and with reason will you glory in contrasting it with the humbled state of the several nations upon the continent, whose melancholy condition has been described to you. What folly would it therefore be to yield to the exorbitant demands of our inveterate and ambitious enemies! What madness would it be to give ear to those who represent the kingdom as undone, unless we at once proceed to the adoption of revolutionary maxims and radical reform? And what weakness is there in desponding, whilst the vessel of the state is composed of such sound materials, and whilst so many able hands are determined to prevent her from striking upon the quicksands of democracy, and to shield her from the broadsides and batteries of foreign and domestic foes?

I have observed with no small degree of pain, that it has lately become the practice of certain evil-minded persons to attempt to undermine every good principle, by instilling into the minds of the lower classes of people, that no confidence is to be placed in holy writ, that there is no future state, and no supreme being to whom an account is to be given of our actions here below; and that consequently, if they can but guard against the magistrate and the executioner, they need not hesitate to commit the most atrocious actions. I am told that these doctrines are promulgated at village clubs by schoolmasters and others, whose education sets them above the multitude, and who, being restrained by salutary laws from openly preaching the doctrine of insurrection, now endeavour to accomplish their sinister designs by vilifying religion, and denying a state of retribution, with the hope that they shall the more easily urge the vicious and the pliant to the commission of revolutionary crimes, and to the subversion of that government which has so wisely checked the progress of those enemies to subordination and morality. But I trust, my friends, that none of you have been seriously contaminated by these pestilential discourses; that you will hold fast to our established system of faith, which breathes such pure and

easily-

easily-practicable morality, and the observance of which ensures both your present and your future happiness; that you will diligently frequent the house of God; and that you will carefully avoid the society, and watch the practices of those who have been heard to debase religion, and who attempt to impress their dangerous notions upon the flexible minds of the young and the undiscerning.

The worshippers of Revolution and Equality have also endeavoured, and are still endeavouring, to bring about their great work, by inspiring you with disesteem of your superiors, and by animating you to treat with disrespect those who are placed in the most conspicuous stations in church and state; they would persuade you to detest, as instruments and supporters of despotism, the brave and loyal officers serving in our army and our navy; and they affect to hold up to ridicule those distinctions and honours which are conferred as the rewards of merit and of services. I have observed many of these false principles inculcated in sundry cheap publications, which are carefully and industriously dispersed through the remotest provinces and the most obscure villages; and as fables, epigrams, humorous short essays, and easy poetry are artfully made the vehicles of these poisonous maxims, they are perused by all ranks of people, and sometimes imbibed by those who look not beyond the surface, and who are unwittingly led astray, and finally ensnared by doctrines from which they would probably have shrunk, had they been at first aware of their evil tendency and of the disloyal intentions of the editors. But the generality of Britons are too enlightened as well as too just to wish that all ranks of people should be reduced to the same common level; that nobles should be stripped of those titles which were bestowed upon their ancestors for illustrious services to the country; or that men should be plundered of their property, either devolved to them by inheritance or acquired by their own industry and abilities; you are not to be taught that the rich and the poor are mutually necessary to each other; that in every government, republican as well as monarchical

chical, there must be various distinctions both in rank and property; and that equality is so impracticable that it cannot, nor ever did, subsist, even in the rudest and most savage tribes and nations.

Would to God that the conduct of many of us did not afford some ground for that disrespect with which the sowers of sedition are so anxious to inspire you; that somewhat more judgment was used in the bestowal of hereditary honours; and that many of the clergy and nobility did not by their licentiousness, arrogance, and open defiance of decency and good manners, draw upon themselves that general contempt and dislike which are the sure consequences of such behaviour! But because some undeserving persons have been advanced to dignities, to which nothing but their wealth or parliamentary interest could give them any claim, and because there are some in all ranks who merit our censure and disesteem, you are too candid to extend your scorn to all the higher classes without distinction, but you will the rather honour and respect those amongst us in every profession and station, who act with propriety, decency, and civility towards all men. Neither will you be persuaded to view with aversion those of your countrymen, who wear the honourable badges of naval and military authority; you are too liberal and too sensible to dislike men merely because they wear a red coat or a blue one; and you are too just to think that they are appointed for arbitrary purposes and the subversion of your rights; you will, on the contrary, respect them on account of the general goodness of their conduct, and you will doubtless entertain the highest opinion of the numerous gentlemen of distinguished birth and extensive possessions, who have been the foremost to encounter danger and repel the assaults of the enemy. You will not fail to observe, that honours and distinctions are instituted as incentives to great and meritorious actions, and that they contribute to produce that emulation which leads to success in the various enterprizes of mankind; they are not exclusively appropriated to any privileged orders, or any particular cast of persons; but you well know that we may all of us attain them by distinguished

guished services in different professions, and by the exertion of our several talents and abilities.

I have little doubt but that the French will attempt the execution of their plan of invasion upon some part of this or of the sister kingdom; nor is it any slander upon the Directory to suppose, that next to the conquest of this island, they are desirous of disposing of some of their numerous armies, either amongst the billows of the ocean, or under the arm of British valour and intrepidity. But the most timid need entertain no apprehensions of the success of their senseless enterprize; for if it be probable that their transports should escape the vigilance of our numerous cruizers, and that their ships of war should avoid a conflict—to them inevitably destructive—with our brave and well-appointed squadrons, it is scarcely possible for them to land unperceived upon any part of this populous island, or to disembark their troops and the various implements of war without the utmost difficulty and danger. So alert are our soldiers, so well-guarded are our coasts, and such excellent precautions have been taken by those who preside over us, that an enemy endeavouring to land would instantly be attacked by a formidable and well-served artillery, and by large bodies of well-disciplined and gallant troops, who would be supported by an host of peasantry eager to testify their loyalty and their abhorrence of revolutionary intruders. But allowing that it were possible for a powerful army to be wafted across the channel unperceived and unmolested, and to land upon our coasts without annoyance, I would ask you, how they are to be supplied for any length of time with provisions, and how they are to make any progress in a country with which they are wholly unacquainted, and where at every step they would be harassed by new difficulties, and exposed to the onsets of increasing numbers. The farther they proceeded, the greater danger would they incur; and though I acknowledge that the French have fought with bravery, and have overcome a great variety of obstacles, yet I see no reason why our countrymen should not fight with equal valour, and why that valour should not become superior, when we
consider

consider that we are a free people, fighting for our religion, our liberties, our families, and our comforts; and not contending, like the soldiers of some countries, for the maintenance of a cause in which they have but little interest, or, like the armies of France, for the accomplishment of the wild and unjust projects of a few arbitrary and ambitious despots. It is not, therefore, from a spirit of vain-glory, that I would inspire you with a firm confidence, that a French army, so landed, must, in a short time, be vanquished and exterminated.

When I consider what a numerous body of forces is requisite for the attack even of a small island, what advantages the islanders always retain over the invaders, the countless variety and quantity of articles to be prepared and embarked for the maintenance of the troops and the purposes of war—such as artillery, ammunition, tents, provisions, medicines, arms, horses, and clothing; when I reflect upon the time employed in embarkation, upon the dangers incurred by the violence of the winds and the fury of the waves, upon the improbability of such an armada traversing the Channel unseen by our cruisers, and unmolested by our fleets, and upon the innumerable difficulties attending the debarkation of such an army, and, above all, when I recollect the impossibility experienced by ourselves of maintaining our ground in an enemy's country, both in former wars and during the present contest, when we were supported by a powerful diversion in our favour; when, I say, I pass in review all these and many other reasons, of which it is unnecessary to remind you, I cannot help persuading myself, that if the Directory should attempt to execute their project of invasion, it is partly with a view to force us to keep up an expensive armament, but chiefly with the less justifiable intention of ridding themselves of men, for whom they are unable to provide, and whose indignation might prove destructive of their authority.

Prepared as we are, we can have nothing to fear from their attempts; and having in a former war withstood all the efforts of several united powers, we need not now despair,

spair, either of a victorious and honourable issue, or of forcing our adversary to treat upon those equitable terms, to which we are upon all accounts so well entitled.

It is not for me to enquire into the causes and origin of the war, nor is it the season to enter into the discussion of a question, about which the opinions of the wisest men have been divided, it is sufficient that we are now compelled to carry on the contest in our own defence by the haughty conduct and inadmissible demands of the enemy; nor can any political or party reasons justify any man in withholding that aid, which it is his bounden duty, as well as his interest, to afford, in the mode most conducive to the welfare of his country.

Let us then be unanimous in our efforts to repel the assaults, and firm in our determinations never to submit to the dictates, of a treacherous and ambitious foe—Let us check the growth of those principles which have caused so much bloodshed, misery, and injustice in other parts of Europe—Let us endeavour to stop the career of luxury, dissipation, vice, and infidelity—Let us set bounds to our desires, and limits to our passions; and let us ensure reciprocal esteem and respect by industry, temperance, and decorum, and by the exercise of those virtuous qualities which contribute to the enjoyment of social and domestic happiness, and to the promotion of our future felicity.

So shall our *Fame* yet flourish amongst nations; so shall we merit the protection of Providence, and the continuance of all the blessings we have so long possessed; and so shall the name of *Briton* be mentioned with respect in this age, and regarded with reverence by posterity and by nations yet unborn.

F I N I S.







