

Foreign Intelligence.

PARIS Dec. 19.

Speech of the Emperor to the Legislative Body.

To-day (Sunday the 19th) his Majesty the Emperor and King set off at one o'clock from the Palace of the Thuilleries, to repair in state to the Legislative Body, where, having been received with the usual ceremonies, his Majesty, after taking his seat, made the following Speech:—

“Senators, Counsellors of State, Deputies from the Departments of the Legislative Body:—

“Splendid victories have raised the glory of the French arms during this campaign; defections without parallel have rendered these victories useless; and has turned against us.—France itself would be in danger, but for the union and energy of the French.

“In these weighty circumstances, it was my first thought to call you around me. My heart has need of the presence and of the affection of my subjects.

“I have never been seduced by prosperity; adversity would always find me superior to its attacks.

“I have several times given peace to nations, when they had lost every thing. From a part of my conquests, I have raised Thrones for Kings, who have forsaken me.

“I had conceived and executed great designs for the prosperity and the happiness of the world! A Monarch and a Father, I feel that Peace adds to the security of thrones and to that of families.

“Negotiations have been entered into with the Allied Powers; I have adhered to the preliminary basis which they have presented; I had the hope that, before the opening of this Session, the Congress of Manheim would be assembled; but new delays, which are not to be ascribed to France, have deferred this moment which the wishes of the world eagerly call for.

“I have ordered to be laid before you all the original documents which are in the *porte-feuille* of my Department of Foreign Affairs. You will make yourselves acquainted with them by means of a Committee. The Speakers (Orators) of my Council will acquaint you with my will on this subject.

“On my side there is no obstacle to the re-establishment of Peace.

I know and partake all the sentiments of the French, because there is not one of them who would desire peace at the price of honour.

“It is with regret that I ask of this generous people new sacrifices; but they are commanded by its noble and dearest interest.

“It was necessary to recruit my armies by numerous levies; nations cannot

treat with security, except by displaying their whole strength; and an increase of taxes become indispensable. What my Minister of the Finances will propose to you, is conformable to the system of finance which I have established. We shall meet every demand without a loan, which consumes the future, and without paper money, which is the greatest enemy of social order.

“I am satisfied with the sentiments which my people of Italy have testified towards me on this occasion.

“Denmark and Naples alone have remained faithful to their alliance with me.

“The Republic of the United States of America continues with success its war with England.

“I have recognized the 19 Swiss cantons.

“Senators, Counsellors of State, Deputies from the Departments to the Legislative Body:—

“You are the natural organs of this throne; it is for you to give an example of energy which may recommend our generation to the generations to come. Let them not say of us—‘They have sacrificed the best interest of their country: they have acknowledged the laws which England has invain sought, during four centuries, to impose on France!’

“My people cannot fear that the policy of their Emperor will ever betray the national glory.

“On my side I feel the confidence that the French will be constantly worthy of themselves and of me.”

After the Speech of his Majesty, the sitting being terminated, his Majesty retired in the midst of acclamations.

His Majesty returned to the Palace of the Thuilleries with his retinue, by the same way as he repaired to the Legislative Body.

Discharges of artillery were fired both as his Majesty left the Palace of the Legislative Body, and when he reached the Thuilleries.—*Moniteur*, Dec. 20.

DECEMBER 21.

Legislative Body—under the Presidency of his Excellency the Duke of Massa.

After the usual introductory business, Count Regnaud de St. Jean d'Angely spoke as follows:

“Gentlemen,
“In the two last campaigns, without having been abandoned by victory, we have been betrayed by fortune.

“In the first, one of those winters which afflicts nature but once in a century in the second, an abandoning defection, of which Europe offers few examples, have rendered sterile the most brilliant successes. Happily, Gentlemen, the nation which had enjoyed prosperity without being intoxicated by it, has supported

misfortune without dejection, and after having generously in the preceding wars defended the territories of our Allies from the evils of war, we are prepared courageously to preserve our own from them.

“Called round the throne under weighty circumstances, the Emperor has yet associated you, Gentlemen, in the views of his policy as in the efforts of his administration. I have said the views, and not the secret of his policy; and in short this policy hath always been the defence and independence of the honour, of the industry, and of the commerce of France and her Allies.

“But nations, like governments, deeply impressed, strongly pre-occupied by the more recent events, forgot those more distant, keep faintly in their memory the first causes, and lose sight of the links of that historic chain which connects the past with the present.

“God forbid, Gentlemen, that I should now describe here any past grievances, calculated to vitiate any minds, to rekindle any resentments: I do not call yours on the past; but because that in each of the pages in which the remembrance of it is preserved, one can discover with certainty who have been the provoker of this war. War has existed in Europe for twenty years; the last is connected with the first, and is the consequence of its origin. To see to whom must be imputed the misfortunes and the duration of this war, it will be sufficient to refer to its cause, and to recollect that the intervals of peace, or rather the short truces during which the nations have breathed, have been owing to this France.

“The aggressions did not proceed from France; neither in 1792, when she was invaded; neither in the year seven, when the treaty of Campo Formio was broken; neither in the year eight, when the Russians came across Germany and Italy, to menace our frontier; neither in the year ten, when the treaty of Amiens was violated; neither at the epoch of the invasion of Bavaria, when the peace of Luneville was disavowed; neither at the epoch when the treaty of Presburgh was placed in oblivion, neither when the engagements of Tilsit were abandoned; neither when the treaties of Vienna and of Paris were torn in pieces.

“And was it not, on the contrary, France, who, victorious and conquering, consented to the armistice of Lœben, and the peace which followed it; who vanquished at Marengo but to treat at Luneville; at Austerlitz, but to restore the greatest part of her conquests, or to endow thrones with them; who has not refused an armistice during the war, peace during negotiation, neither before the