

of other nations; but it seems we must abstain from invectives against Bonaparte. "I will abstain (said Mr. SHERIDAN), I will abstain from them, if I can; but if a bare narrative of facts formed invectives, he could not help it. Notwithstanding all the atrocious acts of that Government, he was, however, for Peace. He was convinced that nothing which had happened since the signing the Definitive Treaty would have been a justifiable ground for this country's going to war. Let us then have peace, if peace be possible; but let resistance be prompt and bold on the first provocation. The Hon. Gen. (Mr. Banks,) who spoke second in the debate, had said a number of things which were well worth the attention of the House. That Hon. Gentleman's manner was not remarkable for its rapidity, and that was an advantage, for it gave the House the opportunity of weighing well what he said; and they were always repaid for the attention they bestowed on him. He desired Ministers to explain the danger which called for an increased establishment. But did he doubt the danger? Could any man look at the map of Europe, who had a heart to feel, and fortitude to resist the danger, and be insensible to any apprehension from the designs of France? If the argument he had used respecting the disproportion of our Army and that of France was worth any thing, it went to this, that we ought to have no army at all. He had talked about the pledges given to the country by former Administrations, but he had forgot altogether the pledges of the last. He did not recollect that a pledge was given, that the Netherlands should be recovered from France. That it was also pledged that Holland should be rescued from their dominion. But above all, he had forgot that a pledge was given, that the existence of a Regicide

French Republic would not be suffered in the midst of Europe. All these pledges, however, had failed; and the Honourable Gentleman, who had set out with professing great friendship to the late Ministers, never shewed that friendship more than by thus stopping short so opportunely in his *history of pledges*. But if this praise was due to his friendship, he certainly could not claim equal commendation on account of his impartiality. Another admirable reason given by the Hon. Gentleman why the estimates should not be voted was, that we would probably receive the first notice of the declaration of war by France, by an armament appearing on our coasts. So that in his opinion, it is absurd to make any preparation for defence until the enemy have landed; until a French herald sounds his trumpet on our shores. He likewise sagaciously observed, that the security contended for might be injurious, by presenting to the country an apparent security: so that to avoid an apparent security the best way would be to disband all our forces, and dismantle our ships. Why the employment of an effective force should be called an apparent security he did not know. If, indeed, wooden guns were mounted on our ships, and if we believed that there was an army ready for our defence concealed somewhere about Brentford, the Hon. Gentleman might very properly call such notions an *apparent security*. This apparent security, if adopted by the country, would resemble the conduct of a man who should paint upon the doors and windows of his house the figures of locks and hinges, but who should leave them all unfastened, although he lived in a neighbourhood infested by thieves and robbers, whom all the exertions of the police could not subdue. He says France would have every thing to lose, and nothing to gain by an invasion of this country. Now