

OBSERVATIONS ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

EVERY person in this country, who is acquainted with the present aspect of Public affairs in Europe, must feel, a very considerable degree of anxiety; and at this distance from the scene of action, with only Newspaper information for data, it is impossible to form any reasoning, upon which we can place reliance.

It however appears certain that Peace or War is at the disposal of the present ruler of France: for no one can suppose that Great Britain, after having delivered up her conquests, after having dismantled her navies and disbanded her armies, would seek to renew a war which she consented to close, in the moment of victory, only one short twelve-month ago. On the other hand, it is difficult to imagine what could induce General Bonaparte to wish for the renewal of a war, from the termination of which he has reaped, and if we are not misinformed, he still reaps great advantages. He is ambitious; but his ambition has not been without prudence: cunning may even be considered as no inconsiderable trait in his character. An ambition so tempered, will not account for a desire to renew the War: He sits on the throne of one of the most powerful Empires of Europe, he disposes of it as his pleasure, and his influence extends over the fairest portion of the Continent. Does he still desire that the remainder of Europe should bend at his nod? If he were to blot Austria out of the list of Nations, he would then be the natural enemy of Prussia; where he to subdue Prussia, he must encounter Russia; and here the Sons of the North might again overwhelm an Empire already sinking under its un-

weildy bulk and the weight of its vices and its crimes. Does he hope to wrest the trident of the Ocean from Britain? the experience of centuries, and the interest of the remaining independant powers of the Continent, who can never quietly see the same power that menaces them by land enjoy also the Empire of the Ocean, ought to convince him of its impracticability.

These considerations have induced some to believe that he is rather actuated by prudence than by ambition; that prudence which points to self preservation, and which of two evils bids us chuse the least. He is surrounded by discontented officers; men who have been his equals and who cannot brook a Superior; the people whom he amused with the title of "*Sovereign*," have felt his power, and know that they have a master; a master who can offer to the people of France none of the advantages which they would enjoy under HIM whose throne he has usurped. Under these circumstances it may reasonably be supposed that Bonaparte has determined to follow the steps of the Revolutionists who went before him; to seek for internal security, in foreign war.

That he intended to risk a Continental war at least, at the moiment he determined to interfere in the affairs of Switzerland will hardly be denied; and the subsequent taking possession of that Country by French troops is an evidence of it: for it is impossible that, after the stipulations of the Treaty of Luneville, Austria can quietly see the French in possession of that country. It was by treacherously taking possession of Switzerland during the negotiations at Radstadt in 1798, in the same manner as has been done at present during the sitting of the Diet at Ratisbon, that France was enabled to stop the Progress of