

One case ought not to be compared with another. In a case of War, all the information respecting the causes which led to that War ought undoubtedly to be laid before the House, to enable them to form a judgment upon the subject; but in a case of Peace, where every point had been amicably adjusted, it would be improper to lay before the Public all the irritating circumstances which might have been attendant upon the course of the Negotiation. Did he therefore draw an unfair inference when he said, that in a case of Peace, it must lay with the Executive Government as to how far more or less inconvenience would be produced by the production of certain information: the House must judge whether the information produced was sufficient, and if they thought not, they could address His Majesty for more. Peace might be according to circumstances, a greater evil than war; but he must suppose in the abstract, the one to be a benefit, and the other an evil, and therefore, information might be necessary in one case, and not in the other. With respect to the Amendment of an Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Dent,) it was unnecessary to say much—it was the general practice to vote the number proposed by the Executive Government: the House might reduce the number, but to increase it was not a very usual mode of proceeding. The House had voted 50,000 Seamen, which with the 10,000 now proposed, would make 60,000 which was all that was at present required.

Mr. ELLIOTT did not so much complain of want of information in this particular instance, as of that systematic darkness which invariably distinguished the operations of Ministers. It was notorious, that no information had been offered sufficient to ascertain whether the various

points of the Definitive Treaty had been carried into effect. He concluded by agreeing to the motion.

Mr. CANNING, SIR W. PULTENEY, and Mr. TRENCH, severally supported the motion, which was then put and carried.

603,500*l.* was then voted for wages for the 10,000 Seamen for 12 lunar months; 200,000*l.* for victuals; 330,000*l.* for wear and tear of the ships; and 27,000*l.* for ordnance.

The report was ordered to be received on Monday.

PUBLIC PAPERS.

His Majesty's Message to Parliament of the 10th March, 1803.

“GEORGE R.

“In consequence of the formidable military preparations carrying on in the Ports of France and Holland pending the discussion of an important Negotiation between his Majesty's Government and that of France, the result of which cannot yet be known, his Majesty acquaints the House, that actuated by the concerns he always feels for the security and welfare of his subjects he has thought it necessary to exercise the powers vested in him by Act of Parliament, for calling out, and embodying forthwith, the Militia of these Kingdoms or such part thereof as his Majesty shall think proper for the defence and safety of his Kingdoms, not doubting that his Parliament will approve the same.”

[Translation.]

GEORGE R.

“En conséquence des préparations de guerre formidables qui se font dans les ports de