

the contents of Perregaux's letter to me; but he told me that Perregaux had frequent and friendly access to Bonaparte, and is one of the Senators, and in that capacity is sure to receive his letters unopened. I did not hesitate therefore to write fully In answer to the paragraph from Perregaux, after a very few words of general introduction, I transcribed, but without allusion to your name, the whole of your letter. Upon the whole, if his intimation had any meaning, I am sure that we have taken the best mode to bring that meaning forward; and at all events no possible inconvenience can ensue

Ad.

III.—Letter from Auckland to Grenville, 3rd February, 1801, London, P. R. O., *France*, vol. 614. (Original.)

Private.

PALACE YARD, February 3rd, 1801.

MY DEAR LORD,—I have received from Mr. Perregaux a letter of the 16th January in reply to mine of the 2nd. Mr. Perregaux writes as follows: (*here follow extracts from No. IV. infra.—H. M. B.*)

You will recollect that the Austrian catastrophe was not known here till three or four days after my letter to Perregaux and that in my private communication I had dwelt strongly on its being the decided and evident line of the King's Ministers to maintain the strictest and most scrupulous honour toward Austria, and to have her entire concurrence so long as the alliance might last.

It is likely enough that the overwhelming of Austria may have induced Bonaparte to suspend all attempts towards a separate pacification with us. But I infer from Mr. Perregaux's reply, that his first letter certainly was an overture the result of which he was expected to report and has reported to Bonaparte. It further appears that he considers the subject as open to farther communication though in that case he would decline being the bearer in person.

To this I should add that Mr. Nettement (the friend of Mr. Perregaux) on Sunday left a note at my house to say, "Qu'il a l'honneur de prévenir Lord Auckland que son départ pour Paris aura lieu au commencement de la semaine prochaine, et qu'il prendra ses ordres."

Under these circumstances your Lordship, in your better judgment, and with the knowledge of collateral points unknown to me, will decide whether any further notice should be taken

AUCKLAND.

On reading the above I think it best to annex the original notes from Perregaux and Nettement.