

without paving the way for the greatest divisions, and has even furnished in England a plausible pretext to those who have written volumes to prove the necessity of the last War against France. Are these men now desirous of presenting to the Consular Government a weapon which they have wielded with so much address? And can they flatter themselves that the Authority which has signed the Peace has not Power to maintain it?

By the first Article of the Treaty of Amiens, the two Powers agree to afford no protection, either directly or indirectly, to those who should cause prejudice to any of them.

But the greatest of all injuries doubtless is, that which tends to debase a foreign government, or to excite within its territory civil and religious commotions; and the most decided of all protections, is that which places under the safeguard of the laws, men, who seek not only to disturb the political tranquillity of Europe, but even to dissolve the first bonds of society.

The undersigned Minister must moreover observe, that this is not a question respecting paragraphs, which, through the inadvertence of an Editor, might have been accidentally inserted in a public print; but it is a question of a deep and continued system of defamation, directed not only against the Chief of the French Republic, but against all the constituted Authorities of the Republic, against the whole nation, represented by these libellers in the most odious and degrading terms. It has even been remarked that many of those prints contain an appeal to the French people, against the Government and fundamental laws of their country.

If these observations apply to the English Writers, who, for these three months past, have deluged the public with the most perfidious and

unbecoming publications, they are still more applicable to a class of foreign calumniators, who appear to avail themselves of the asylum offered them in England only for the purpose of the better gratifying their hatred against France, and undermining the foundations of peace.

It is not merely by insulting and seditious writing, evidently published with a view to circulation in France, but by other incendiary papers distributed through the Maritime Departments, in order to excite the evil disposed or weak inhabitants to resist the execution of the *Concordat*, that these implacable enemies of France continue to exercise hostilities, and to provoke the just indignation of the French Government and People. Not a doubt exists of these writings having been composed and circulated by *Georges*, and by the former Bishops of France. These men can no longer be considered but as Rebels against both political and religious authority; and after their reiterated attempts to disturb the good understanding between the two Governments, their residence in England militates openly against the spirit and letter of the Treaty of Peace.

The meetings likewise which have taken place in the island of Jersey, and the odious plots which are there framed, in spite of the representations which the undersigned Minister has already taken care to make on this subject, also demand immediate measures to be taken by a Government, the neighbour and friend of France.

Other persons (attached, by recollections never to be effaced, and by regrets too long fostered, to an order of things which no longer exists in France) find themselves daily implicated by the plots of those who pretend to serve them. A sense of their own reputation will without doubt