

good neighbourhood. The offence in question is so much the more serious as its object is evidently to disturb the harmony which subsists between the two Governments.

It is not to Peltier alone, but to the Editor of the "Courier François de Londres," to Cobbet, and to other writers who resemble them; that I have to direct the attention of his Majesty's Government. The perfidious and malevolent publications of these men are an open contradiction to the principles of peace; and if it could ever enter into the mind of the French Government to permit retaliation, writers would doubtless be found in France, willing to avenge their countrymen, by filling their pages with odious reflections on the most respectable persons, and on the dearest institutions of Great-Britain.

The want of positive laws against these sorts of offences cannot palliate the violation of the Law of Nations, according to which peace should put a stop to all species of hostilities; and doubtless those which wound the honour and the reputation of a Government, and which tend to cause a revolt of the people, whose interests are confided to that Government, are the most apt to lessen the advantages of peace, and to keep up national resentment.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) OTTO.

To his Excellency Lord Hawkesbury,
Minister and Secretary of State for
the Foreign Department.

NO. 11. An answer from Lord Hawkesbury to his note, expressing the disapprobation of the British Government at the Number of Peltier alluded to, and informing M. Otto that orders had been given the Attorney General to prosecute him for it.

NO. 12.—NOTE. The undersign-

ed Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic having submitted to his Government the letter which his Excellency Lord Hawkesbury, Minister and Principal Secretary of State of his Britannic Majesty, did him the honour of writing under the date of the 27th July, is directed to offer the following observations.

If the British Government tolerates censures upon the acts of its administration and the personal abuse of the most respectable men, it does not suffer even the slightest attempt against the public tranquillity, the fundamental laws of the empire, and the supreme authority, which arises from them. Every nation, is moreover, at liberty to sacrifice any advantage whatever in its interior, in order to obtain another to which it attaches a higher value; but the Government which does not repress the licentiousness of the press when it may be injurious to the honour or the interests of Foreign Powers, would afford an opportunity for libellists to endanger the public tranquillity, or at least the good understanding that forms the basis of it, and whenever such serious injuries are continued in a regular and systematic manner, doubts must arise as to its own dispositions.

The particular Laws and Constitution of Great-Britain are subordinate to the general principles of the Law of Nations, which supersede the Laws of each individual State. If it be a right in England to allow the most extensive liberty to the press, it is a public right of polished nations, and the bounden duty of Governments to prevent, repress, and punish, every attack which might, by those means, be made against the rights, the interests, and the honour, of foreign Powers.

This general maxim of the law of nations has never been mistaken