

been intimated to me, and which could not but be considered as inconsistent with his Majesty's dignity and honour, as well as with the common laws of hospitality which he could not but observe towards foreigners within his dominions, until they should have forfeited that protection by their misconduct.

M. Talleyrand expressed to me, in reply, that the First Consul had solicited no more than the British Government itself had, at the time, demanded of France, when the Pretender was in this country, and that had been practised by other Governments under similar circumstances: that he could not see any humiliation in the measure which he had intimated to me; that he could assure me it had not been suggested with any such idea; and that he could only repeat, that the adoption of it would be in the highest degree agreeable and satisfactory to the First Consul, and be considered by him as the most convincing proof of his Majesty's disposition to see a cordial good understanding established between the two countries; concluding his answer with a request that I would report it to your Lordship.

I rejoined upon the subject by observing to the French Minister, that even without adverting to the serious consideration of the King's dignity and honour, the feelings of the people of England were to be taken into account on the occasion: that he must be sensible the relative situation hitherto of the two countries, especially in regard to trade, afforded his Majesty's subjects no room to reap those advantages which were common to, and which were always expected from a state of peace, and that it therefore appeared to me that the First Consul would equally give a proof of his disposition to see harmony and a friendly intercourse re-established between the two na-

tions, by not repeating his wish upon a matter which would operate in the strongest manner against such an approximation and reconciliation of sentiments, were it even only to come to the knowledge of his Majesty's subjects.

I am happy, my Lord, to say, that M. Talleyrand shewed no warmth, or any very marked eagerness, in his manner of replying to my communication; and that our conversation on this head terminated with the last remarks I made to him, when he changed it to another subject.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ANTHONY MERRY.
Right Hon. Lord Hawkesbury, &c.

NO. 10.—TRANSLATION.

Portman-Square, July 25, 1802.

MY LORD,

I transmitted some time ago, to Mr. Hammond, a number of Peltier, containing the most gross calumnies against the French Government, and against the whole nation; and I observed, that I should probably receive an order to demand the punishment of such an abuse of the Press.—That order is actually arrived, and I cannot conceal from you, my Lord, that the reiterated insults of a number of foreigners, assembled in London, to conspire against the French Government, produce the most unfavourable effects on the good understanding between the two nations. Even though the first article of the Treaty of Amiens had not provided for the maintenance of that respect, which two independent nations owe to each other; the general maxims of the Law of Nations would formally condemn so revolting an abuse of the liberty of the Press. It cannot be believed, that the law can give more latitude to a Libellist than to any other individual, who, without Declaration of War, should permit himself to violate the duties of