

or expediency, was it now adviseable for us to go to war? He, for one, could not conceive any one principle that would justify us to such a measure. With regard to interfering in the state of Europe, there never was a period when this country would lose more, or have less chance of gain by such conduct. The great object of France is to revive her commerce, and there emulate this country; but we have such a decided start of her, that she cannot overtake us, and even where she before us, we would have no difficulty in speedily overtaking her. In this contest we have the fairest hopes and the best grounds of being victorious. A continental war would prove fatal to England. France was aggrandized—he should not deny this, as it was one of his grand accusations against the late Ministry. Of the First Consul himself, he could only speak from his public acts, and with regard to the wish for war in England, he could say that it was created by the newspapers, and was not the sense of the people. If we were to be driven to war by a set of publishers, who take that side in order to increase the sale of their papers, he declared it would be the most base and shameful ever undertaken. Mr. Fox concluded, by voting for the address.

Mr. Canning said, that neither the speech, nor yet the address, coincided with his sentiments. He then took a view of our present situation, vindicated the late administration; especially the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, and called upon the House to watch Ministers, and vindicate their country's high character among the nations of the globe.

Lord Hawkesbury said, that the principles which actuated the conduct of Ministers were the same as those which had regulated them as the definitive treaty had secured the inte-

grity of Great-Britain, and added to her dominions, but it had left the continent rather in an unsatisfactory situation; but to continue a continental war without continental aid was absurd. It had, therefore, been deemed better to husband our means for a great effort at a future period. These were the principles upon which Ministers had acted, intended to act upon, and should always justify. He begged to be understood that he held out no ground for war; but if peace was to be retained by a defensive system, it was undoubtedly preferable. No steps had been taken by Ministers to commit the honor of the country, and the communications with foreign powers he could not be expected to declare. His Lordship concluded a speech of great length, by giving his assent to the address.

Mr. Windham said, there was nothing but loose ambiguity in the speeches which he had heard on the Address. It was certainly true, that any man might vote for the latter; but at a moment when the crisis of our fate was approaching, when the attention of Europe was directed to our councils, when the storm was ready to burst over our heads, was language of this description to be held forth as characteristic of the national spirit? Every day tells us of some usurpation on the part of France. Piedmont, Tuscany, and Parma, are swallowed up, one after the other. What was the plain inference from all this, but that our own ruin was approaching, and that we touched upon the moment of our dissolution! If any man asked him "why he thought so?" his answer should be, "why do you think otherwise?" Let any man be called from his grave, who died but fourteen years since, and let him inquire as to the powers which then existed. Where is Holland? Gone.—Spain? Subdued.—Portugal? The same.—Italy? In thralldom.—Germany? Tern