

further, and affect to feel a delight in the explanations of the minister of marine, though every man of sense perfectly understood their duplicity : though that minister expressly disclaimed all authority to decide for Mr. Talleyrand, who was absent : though men of intelligence in our country at the time predicted, indeed were certain of the purposed fallacy of those explanations. The event has proved, not that our government was mistaken, for they never believed the minister of marine sincere, but that the French government adopted that irregular and ludicrous course in order probably to prevent an instant retaliation on the part of Great Britain ; but as soon as their policy required, they denied, as was predicted, the authority of the minister of marine, and declared that the decrees had no exception whatever. Indeed if they had no applicability to us, they were perfectly nugatory, as no other neutral nation then existed. This fact is an unanswerable one, and proves the falshood and insincerity of our cabinet.

Mr. Madison goes on to presume that the French orders would be *favourably* expounded. Which he declares to be the most *probable* event.

Why presume it ? From the past conduct of France towards us ? When did she ever perform any stipulation in our favour either under our old treaty or the existing one ? Is there one solitary instance of her good faith ? Is it to be found in the condemnation of the first captured vessel, the ship Jay, in violation of the stipulation that free ships should make free goods ? Shall we find it in the decree which declared all British manufactures on board our ships lawful prize ? and which further condemned the vessel and cargo for having any amount of them on board ? Is it to be perceived in the inhuman decree which sentenced to death all neutrals found on board enemies' ships, though serving by force ? Or was this great confidence derived from the peculiar sense of justice and regard to neutral rights manifested by the present emperor ? Was the violation of the Prussian territory, the seizure of the duke d'Enghein in the neutral states of the elector of Baden, and the daily violation of the rights of all weaker states, sufficient pledges to our admiring and submissive cabinet ?

No. 2.

IN spite of the constant experience of the infidelity of the French Cabinet, which has in every period of its history made sport of all its engagements with us, Mr. Madison tells Mr. ARMSTRONG, that it is *probable* that the French decree would be favourably expounded towards us.

If this letter had been an official one, directed to the Cabinet of *St. Cloud*, the principles of civility might have induced our government to have adopted the language of insincerity ; but in a private letter to our