

to enemies who have already declared, but to conspirators, who have long since commenced it? Every thing, therefore, imposes upon the powers established by the Constitution for maintaining the peace and the safety of the public, the imperious law of employing force against rebels, who, from the bosom of a foreign land, threaten to tear their country in pieces.

"The right of nations violated—the dignity of the French people insulted—the criminal abuse of the King's name, employed by imposters, to veil their disastrous projects—their distrust kept up by sinister rumours through the whole empire—the obstacles occasioned by this distrust to the execution of the laws, and the re-establishment of credit—the means of corruption exerted to delude and seduce the citizens—the disquiets which agitate the inhabitants of the frontiers—the evils to which attempts the most vain and the most speedily repulsed may expose them—the outrages always unpunished which they have experienced on the territories where the revolted French find an asylum—the necessity of not allowing the rebels time to complete their preparations, or raise up more dangerous against their country—such are our motives. Never did more just or more urgent exist. And in the picture which we have drawn, we have rather softened than overcharged our injuries. We have no occasion to rouse the indignation of citizens, in order to inflame their courage.

"The French nation, however, will never cease to consider as a friendly people, the inhabitants of the territory occupied by the rebels, and governed by princes who offer them protection. The peaceful citizens whose country armies may occupy, shall not be treated by her as enemies, nor even as subjects. The public force of which she may become the temporary depository, shall not be employed but to secure their tranquillity and maintain their laws. Proud of having regained the rights of nature, she will never outrage them in other men. Jealous of her independence, determined to bury herself in her own ruins, rather than suffer laws to be taken from her, or dictated to her, or even an insulting guarantee of those she has framed for herself. She will never infringe the independence of other nations. Her soldiers will conduct themselves on a foreign territory as they would on their own, if forced to combat on it. The involuntary evils which her troops may occasion, shall be repaired. The asylum which she offers to strangers shall not be shut against the inhabitants of countries whose princes

shall have forced her to attack them, and they shall find a sure refuge in her bosom. Faithful to the engagements made in her name, she will fulfil them with a generous exactness; but no danger shall be capable of making her forget that the soil of France belongs wholly to liberty, and that the laws of equality ought to be universal. She will present to the world the new spectacle of a nation truly free, submissive to the laws of justice amid the storms of war, and respecting every where, and on every occasion, towards all men, the rights which are the same to all.

"Peace, which imposture, intrigue, and treason have banished, will never cease to be the first of our wishes. France will take up arms, compelled to do so, for her safety and her internal peace, and she will be seen to lay them down with joy the moment she is assured that there is nothing to fear for that liberty—for that equality which is now the only element in which Frenchmen can live. She dreads not war, but she loves peace; she feels that she has need of it; and she is too conscious of her strength to fear making the avowal; When in requiring other nations to respect her repose, she took an eternal engagement not to trouble others. She might have thought that the deserved to be listened to, and that this solemn declaration, the pledge of the tranquillity and the happiness of other nations, might have merited the affection of the Princes who govern them; but such of those Princes as apprehend that France would endeavour to excite internal agitations in other countries, shall learn, that the cruel right of reprisal, justified by usage, condemned by nature, will not make her resort to the means employed against her own repose; that she will be just to those who have not been so to her; that she will every where pay as much respect to peace as to liberty; and that the men who still presume to call themselves the masters of other men, will have nothing to dread from her, but the influence of her example.

"The French nation is free; and what is more than to be free, she has the sentiment of freedom. She is free; she is armed; she can never be reduced to slavery. In vain are her intestine discords counted on; she has passed the dangerous moment of the reformation of her political laws, and she is too wise to anticipate the lesson of experience; she wishes only to maintain her Constitution, and to defend it.

"The division of two Powers proceeding from the same source, and directed to the same end, the last hope of our enemies,