

The proceedings of the West-India Planters and Merchants at their Meeting on Friday, and the Petition they have prepared for signature on the subject of American Intercourse, afford no additional testimony to the wisdom of those measures which Government is said to have in contemplation with respect to the Colonial trade; they only prove that a number of persons connected with that trade suppose the plan beneficial to their interests, or at any rate are willing, under present difficulties, that the experiment should be tried. It is a matter of course that this part of the community should come forward to promote a measure adopted in deference to their complaints, and with a view to their particular advantage. It is also natural that these gentlemen should wave any minute or anxious consideration of the manner in which other classes, or the state in general, may be affected by the proposed line of policy. Their business, according to the practice of the world, is to urge the point by all means in their power, and leave others to find out their own dangers, and guard their interests, if they can.

The question to be considered by Parliament when deliberating on the projected measures will be, what proportion the benefit to be reaped by the West-India Planters will bear to the injury inflicted on other parts of the community, and on the nation in general. Now, on these points it will certainly be prudent to receive other representations than those of the West-India Merchants and Planters, who are naturally disposed to entertain too sanguine expectations from the charge of policy intended for their relief, and who will be the last to perceive or assist the public in discovering the amount of evil that may be entailed by it upon the country and its dependencies. If the ship-owners and merchants of Great-Britain, and the people of her N. American Colonies are considered as interested parties, it is at least fit that their voices should be listened to on this subject, in opposition to those of persons not less interested, and Parliament will strike a balance between the conflicting statements. But in forming their conclusion, they will recollect that they are not merely trying a cause between colony and colony, between the claims of one trade and another; there is a great and paramount interest which imperiously demands attention, the interest of England herself as a Maritime State. Whether Britain shall yield up those commercial laws which may almost be deemed the charter of her naval ascendancy, abandoning, at this season of peace, one of the fairest sources of that strength so necessary to her welfare and independence, is a question not to be decided solely upon the opposing representations of two or more agricultural or mercantile communities, however important and respectable. Let the parties be fairly heard; let every reasonable allowance, be made for zeal, for interest, for the workings of hope and fear on either side; but even if the claims be in other respects equally bal-

anced, those ought to predominate in the end which shall be found manifestly coinciding with the surest and most approved national policy.

The West-India Petitioners encourage one another to strengthen the hands of Government; we also are anxious that they should be strengthened for all purposes which a wise and considerate Government can be desirous of accomplishing, but those who are called upon to assist in this office should be certain that the hands are stretched out to save and not to destroy.—At all events, if it be a work of charity to strengthen the hands of our rulers, it is a labour not less laudable to open their eyes.

MARCH 28.—We received this morning the Paris Papers of Monday, which gave an account of the discovery of two conspiracies—one for a general rising in Poland, to shake off the Russian domination, and the other at La Rochelle, against the Bourbon dynasty. We have extracted the particulars from the *Gazette de France*, which it is proper to observe is the only Journal that contains the information. The Greeks appear to have fixed the basis of their union under one Government, and it is stated that Deputies from the Peloponessus are to be sent to the different Courts of Europe and the United States, to obtain a recognition of their independence.

There is a talk of a revolutionary attempt meditated at La Rochelle, which has completely failed. Several Sous-Officers of the 45th Regiment, who arrived recently in that town, had formed the plan of hoisting the tricoloured flag on the 21st March, but on the morning of the 19th, one of the conspirators discovered the plot, and 11 Sous-Officers were arrested in their barracks. According to these disclosures it was determined that most of the Officers of the regiment should be put to death, as well as the principal civil and military authorities. It was proposed at the same time to seize the arsenal, where there are thirty thousand muskets and a quantity of munitions.

According to the news from Greece received at Marseilles on the 16th of March, the congress of the Peloponessus has resolved, that Representatives shall be sent to the different Courts of Europe to obtain a recognition of the independence of Greece. Men distinguished by their talents and their patriotism, will be chosen to fill those important functions. Political negotiations will be opened between the United States of North-America and the independent Islands of the Archipelago. It is affirmed that the American frigate *Caroline*, which entered the port of Trieste on the 14th February, is bound for Hydra; it has on board arms and ammunition. The Greek Deputies to be sent to the Congress at Washington will embark for North-America on board this vessel.

It has been so often stated, that all differences were settled, and that there would be no war, that a fresh positive declaration to the same effect is not cal-

culated to give the greatest possi-
surance. We have constantly asserted that nothing was decided with respect to these differences; and, in fact the complexion of affairs has hitherto been altogether of a warlike nature. But great efforts have certainly been lately made, both by England and Austria, to prevent Russia from availing herself of the present favourable conjuncture for carrying the designs of Catharine into complete execution; and though nothing can be more hazardous than, in a case like this, were national feeling, national policy, and strong interests, are in question, to predicate of such a Personage as the Emperor Alexander, what course he will follow, we think it incumbent on us to say, that there is at least some ground for believing the negotiations now carrying on at Vienna may end in a peaceable arrangement. We wish, at the same time, to have it understood, in order that no one may be misled by us on so important a subject, that we give no opinion. All we can say is, that the high Parties appear no more disposed to reconciliation than they have appeared at any former time.

We lament to observe, from the accounts in the Bury and Madstone papers, that the spirit of outrage which has been manifested against agricultural machinery is not yet subdued. The Calendar for the Norfolk Assizes, which commenced on Saturday, contains the names of 11 prisoners, charged with acts of destruction, originating in that violent hostility to mechanical inventions, which so frequently bursts forth when employment for the working classes is scarce, or inadequately required.

MARCH 26.—By the French papers of Friday, we find affairs proceeding with our neighbours much the same as they do with us; that is to say, that within the walls of the Legislature a great outcry is made against the necessary expenses of Government, whilst on the Exchange public credit presents a most favourable aspect, and Stocks continue at an unprecedented elevation. The closing price of the *Rentes* on Thursday last was 89. 64.; and this leads us to make some reflections on the fluctuating prices of this Stock, from its first institution to the present time. It first received its present name and constitution by the law of 1802, being founded on the *Tiers Consolidé* of the Directory. The price first quoted under the title of *Cinq pour Cent*, was on the 30th of May, 1802, when it was at 55. 60. From that time it continued to rise until May 13, 1808, when it attained the rate of 88. 5. including the *Dividend*. It is remarkable, that this "most palmy state" of credit under Buonaparte immediately preceded his unprincipled attack on Spain, in the month of June, 1802. From the moment, notwithstanding all his subsequent victories, credit had received a fatal blow.

April 3.

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