

Monthly Register.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

EUROPE.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—Nothing has yet transpired to lead to the belief that the late order for embodying four new regiments, is in any way connected with an immediate prospect of hostilities. This measure is now generally thought to be adopted for the purpose of enabling Government to dispatch a larger force to the West Indies; those troops in Ireland ordered for the latter place will be supplied by the new raised corps. The officers for these regiments are to be taken exclusively from the half-pay list. There are also some vessels of war of the first class fitting out with every dispatch; but whether as a counteracting measure to the proceedings of any other nation or not, has not yet transpired.

The public accounts from England, mention that in some minds, a degree of dissatisfaction has arisen at the idea of advancing loans to the Allied powers. It being thought that by this means they only want to get possession of our specie, preparatory to entering on a war with some power. In speaking on this subject, a London Ministerial Journal says, "Are there no seeds? Are no clouds rising? The Allied powers show a suspicious anxiety to get possession of our precious metals by loans, which they lock up in their coffers instead of applying them to the ostensible purposes for which they were borrowed. It is quite consistent with a state of peace to prevent them from raising loans in this country. In what way this can best be done, we know not, but we are quite sure it ought to be done, both as it regards the interest of the States and of individuals; and that the sooner the Legislature adopts some decisive measure upon the subject the better."

At the general annual meeting of the Ship-owners held in the City of London Tavern, the Committee congratulated the meeting on the passing of the amended consolidated Register Act, which went into operation on the first of January last. The principal features of this act are so formed as to materially facilitate the operations in the shipping trade; tending to obviate many of the difficulties with which that branch has been hitherto clogged, and extending its privileges beyond what they have been.—It provides against vessels being fraudulently sold, while in foreign ports, under the pretence of their being unseaworthy.—Extends the amount of repairs a vessel may undergo in a foreign port, without forfeiting her British rights and privileges. This was formerly confined to 15s. per ton, but is now extended to 20s. This act further provides for lost or mislaid Registers, and is calculated to meet those difficulties which formerly arose from Registers being hostilely detained; or from the owners being absent. By this act, the share-holders of ships can have them registered in the name of three trustees, without all the proprietor's names being mentioned, in the same manner as joint Stock Companies; with many other advantages.

The trade with India has by passing the 4th George IV. chap. 80, been put upon a different footing from what it has hitherto been, and approximates more nearly to the condition of a free trade. British registered vessels are now allowed to enter upon the coasting and general trade in the Indian seas, on the same conditions, and only subject to the same restrictions as India built vessels. And vessels of any size under British registers may trade to and from India, (China excepted,) with only the restrictions of their proceeding in the first instance, to some of the principal settlements in India. There is also an important change in the controul and regulations for the government of Lascar seamen.

An alteration in the extension of their privileges somewhat similar, has been provided for the South Sea Whale Fishery. The vessels used in this trade may now be of any size the owners choose, and can fish in any latitude or longitude, from the East of the Cape of Good Hope to the West of the Straits of Magellan.