

not appeared under any authority of the British Government, and are disavowed and disapproved of by them; but the paragraph in the *Moniteur* has appeared in a Paper avowedly official, for which the Government are therefore considered as responsible, as his Majesty's Government is responsible for the contents of the London Gazette. And this retort is not confined to the unauthorised English Newspapers, or to the other publications, of which complaint is now made, but is converted into, and made pretext for a direct attack upon the Government of his Majesty. His Majesty feels it beneath his dignity to make any formal complaint on this occasion; but it has been impossible for me to proceed to the other parts of the subject, without pointing your attention to the conduct of the French Government in this respect, that you may observe upon it in the manner it deserves.

The propositions in M. Otto's official Note, are six in number; but may in fact be divided under two heads: the first, that which relates to the libels of all descriptions which are alledged to be published against the French Government; the last, comprehending the five complaints which relate to the emigrants residing in this country. On the first, I am sure you must be aware that his Majesty cannot, and never will, in consequence of any representation or any menace from a foreign Power, make any concession which can be in the smallest degree dangerous to the liberty of the press, as secured by the constitution of this country. This liberty is justly dear to every British subject. The constitution admits of no previous restraints upon publications of any description; but there exist Judicatures, wholly independant of the Executive Government, capable of taking cognizance of such publications as the law deems to be

criminal, and which are bound to inflict the punishment the delinquents may deserve; these Judicatures may take cognizance not only of libels against the Government and the Magistracy of this Kingdom, but, as has been repeatedly experienced, of publications defamatory of those in whose hands the administration of foreign Governments is placed. That our Government neither has nor wants any other protection than what the laws of the country afford; and though they are willing and ready to give to every foreign Government all the protection against offences of this nature which the principle of their laws and constitution will admit, they never can consent to new model their laws, or to change their constitution, to gratify the wishes of any foreign Power. If the present French Government are dissatisfied with our laws on the subject of libels, or entertain the opinion that the administration of justice in our Courts is too tardy and lenient, they have it in their power to redress themselves by punishing the venders and distributors of such publications within their own territories, in any manner that they may think proper, and thereby preventing the circulation of them. If they think their present laws are not sufficient for this purpose they may enact new ones; or if they think it expedient, they may exercise the right which they have of prohibiting the importation of any foreign newspapers, or periodical publications, into the territories of the French Republic. His Majesty will not complain of such a measure, as it is not his intention to interfere in the manner in which the people or territories of France should be governed; but he expects, on the other hand, that the French Government will not interfere in the manner in which the Government of his dominions is conducted, or call for a change in those