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pressing, that in order to avoid those discontents and murmurs that would follow from laying additional taxes upon a people already loaded as heavily as they could with patience bear, it was found indispensable to abolish a great number of places and offices in several public departments. This was deemed a severe enforcement of œconomy, as the abolition extended to no less than four hundred; but the times called so urgently for this sacrifice of private to public interest, that the feelings arising from the hard case of such a number of individuals as were dismissed from their stations, were superseded by the consideration of the absolute necessity of the measure.

These retrenchments proved, however, unanswerably the streights to which the French ministry were reduced. Had other methods appeared practicable with any propriety at the present season, they would undoubtedly have been adopted in a state where the grandeur of the Crown, with the consequent support of all who contribute to its lustre, has always been the invariable object of those who were at the head of affairs. It is highly improbable, therefore, they would have departed from maxims long become fundamental in its very constitution, had they not been compelled to it by the circumstances of the times.

In this situation was the House of Bourbon at the commencement of the year eighty. Notwithstanding the misfortune that had befallen Spain in the capture and destruction of the squadron under Admiral Langara, it was judged incumbent on both kingdoms to preserve that appearance of strength which they had at first displayed. For this reason a junction was formed of the French and Spanish fleets, in the same manner as it had