

whose machinations uniformly tend to sow discord between the two people. It owes to itself, and to the nation at large, (which has made it the depository of its power and of its honour), not to appear insensible to insults and to plots during profound Peace, which the irritation of open war could not justify, and is too well acquainted with the conciliatory dispositions of the British Ministry, not to rely upon its efforts to disperse a faction equally the enemy of France and England.

The undersigned Minister seizes this opportunity to present to his Excellency, Lord Hawkesbury, the homage of his respectful consideration.

(Signed)

OTTO.

London, August 17, 1823.

NO. 13.

Downing-street, Aug. 28, 1823.

SIR,

I send you a copy of a letter which I received some days ago from M. Otto, together with a copy of an official Note inclosed in it. I have informed M. Otto, that you would receive instructions to enter into explanation with the French Government on the several points to which it refers. It is impossible not to feel considerable surprise at the circumstance under which it has been thought proper to present such a note; at the style in which it is drawn up, and at the complaints contained in it. Whatever may be the general dispositions of the French Government towards this country, supposing them to be as hostile as they have been at any former period, or even more so, it would appear to contrary to their interest to provoke a war with us at the present moment, that I am inclined to ascribe their conduct, in the whole of this business, more to temper, than to any other motive; but whether their con-

duct is to be referred to temper or to policy, the effects of it may still be the same; it is therefore become of the utmost importance that a frank explanation should be made of the line of conduct which his Majesty has determined to adopt on reasons of the nature of those to which this Note refers, and of the motives on which it is founded; and it is to be hoped that such an explanation will have the effect of putting an end to a course of proceeding which can lead only to perpetual irritation between the two Governments, and which might ultimately tend to the most serious consequences.

The first consideration that naturally arises on this transaction is, that of the peculiar circumstances under which the Note of M. Otto has been presented. It cannot be denied, that some very improper paragraphs have lately appeared in some of the English Newspapers against the Government of France; it cannot be denied likewise, that publications of a still more improper and indecent nature have made their appearance in this country, with the names of foreigners affixed to them. Under these circumstances the French Government would have been warranted in expecting every redress that the laws of this country could afford them; but as, instead of seeking it in the ordinary course, they have thought fit to resort to recrimination themselves, or at least to authorise it in others, they could have no right to complain if their subsequent appeal to his Majesty had failed to produce the effect that otherwise would have attended it.

Whatever may have been the nature of the prior injury, they have in fact, taken the law into their own hands: and what is this recrimination and retort? The paragraphs in the English Newspapers, the publications to which I have above referred, have