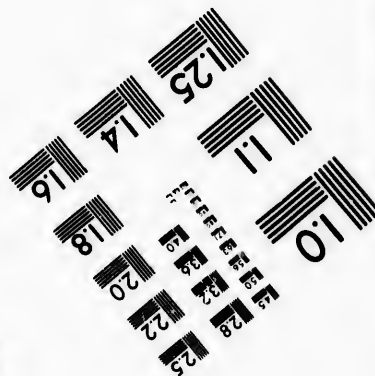
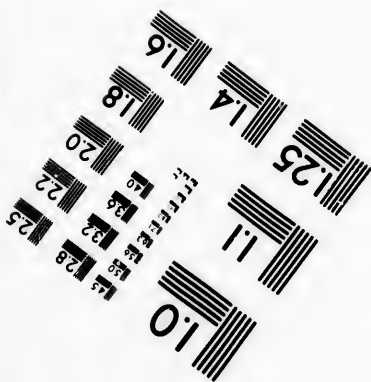
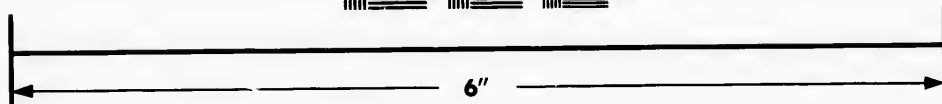
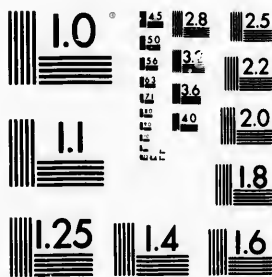


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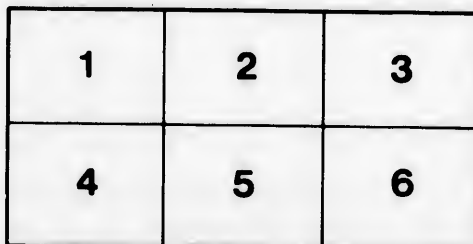
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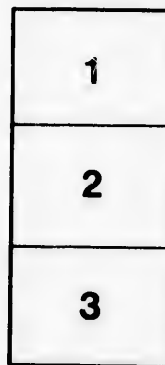
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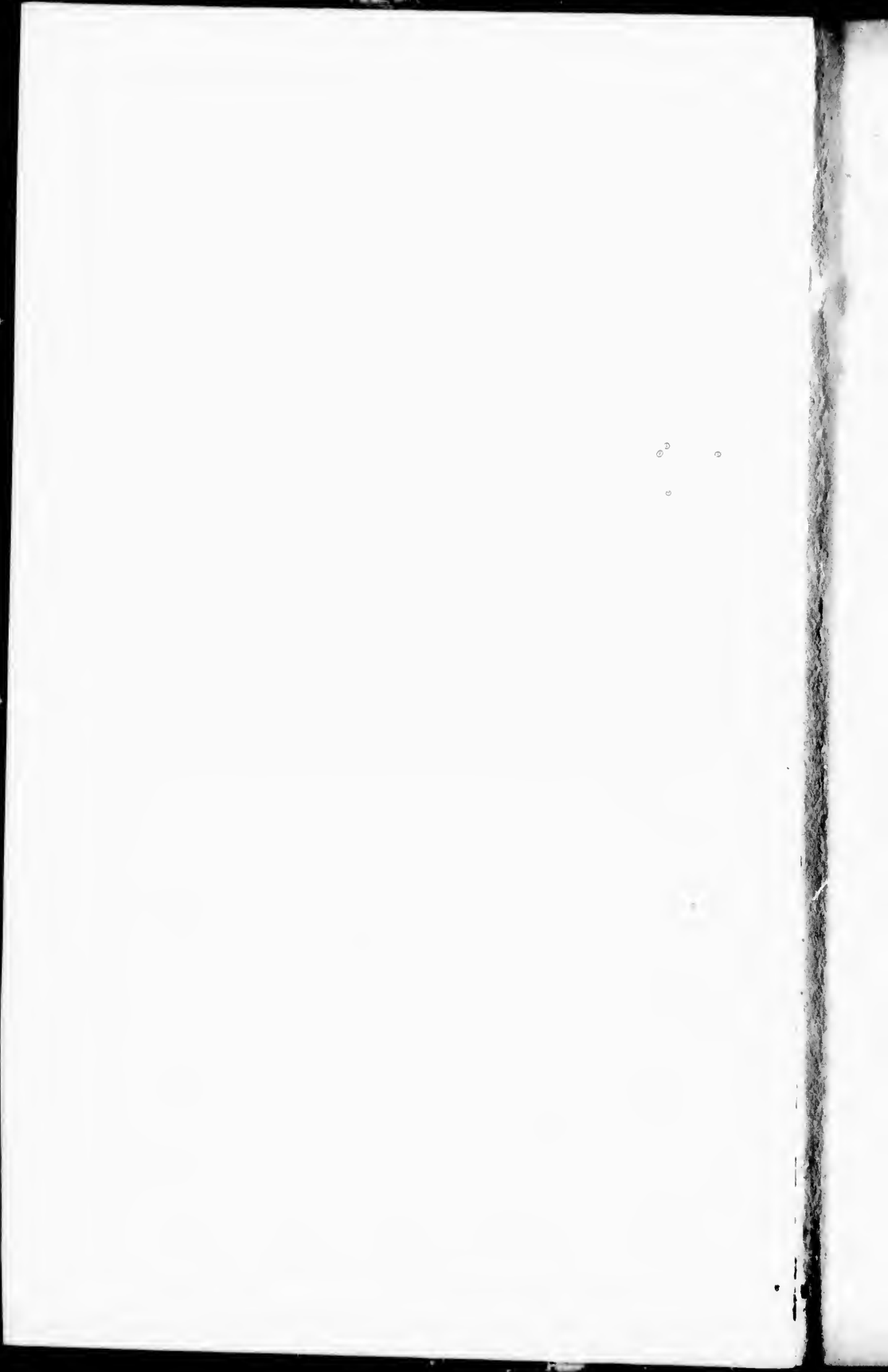
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OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
COMMERCE OF GREAT BRITAIN
WITH THE
RUSSIAN AND OTTOMAN EMPIRES,
AND ON THE
PROJECTS OF RUSSIA
AGAINST THE
OTTOMAN AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

LONDON,
PRINTED FOR J. DEBRETT, PICCADILLY.

1801.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE present, from its past and impending events, is such a crisis in human affairs, that few men of discernment, without resigning themselves to apathy, can remain unconcerned spectators. The topics which compose the substance of this sketch, must soon engross the attention, not only of the British Parliament and Nation, but of every Civilized Government. Some part of the contents of the two first Chapters were written by me during the dispute, ten years ago, respecting the fortress of Oczakow; and, considering the hurry and precipitation of that anonymous pamphlet, it was more favourably received than I had reason to expect. Upon the wisdom, utility, and execution of the present sketch the reader will decide. I may at least presume, that its length and expence are not amongst its defects.

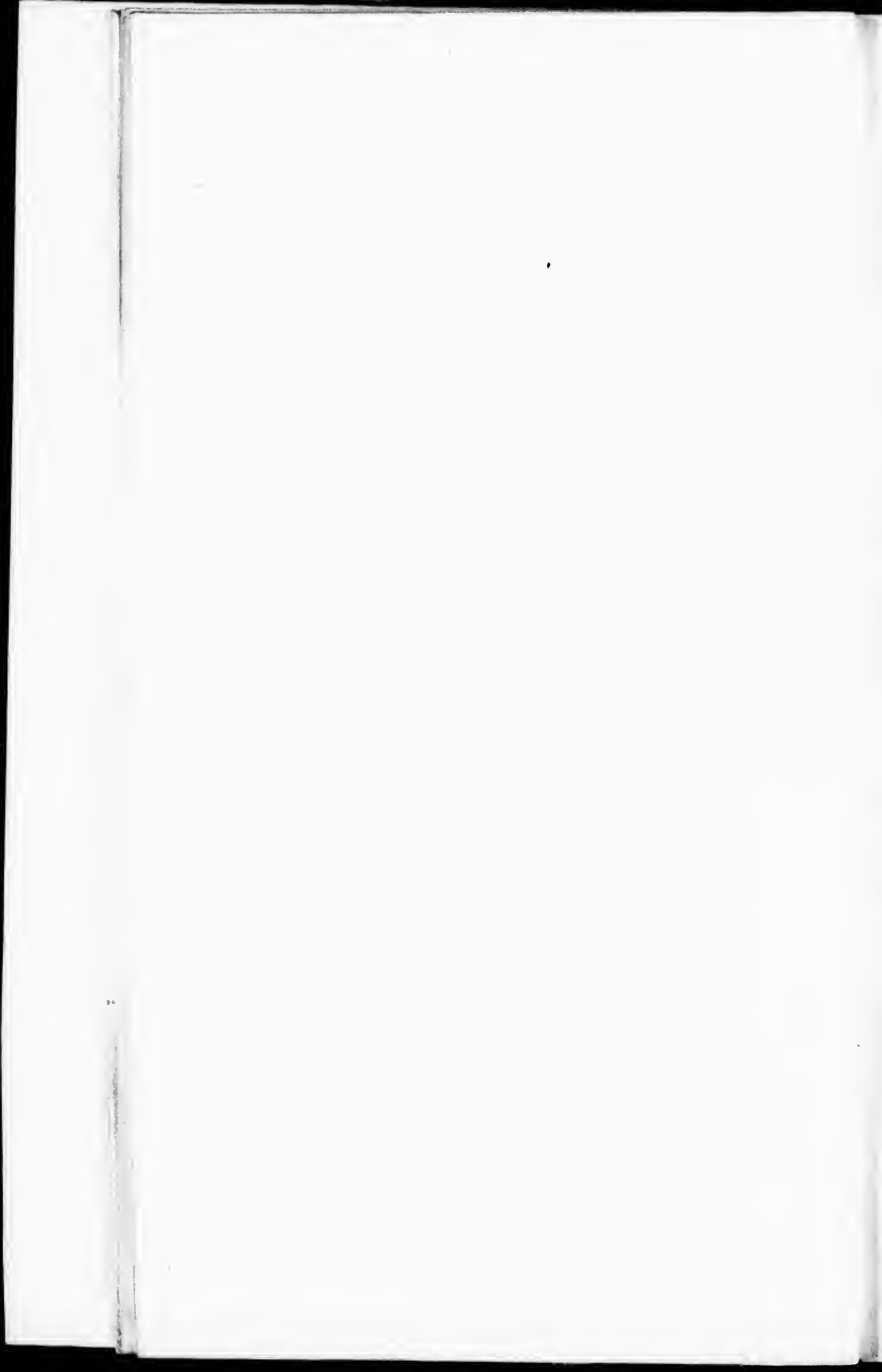
W. B.

London, Feb. 9, 1801.



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OBSERVATIONS, &c.

CHAPTER I.

*Of the Commerce between Great Britain and
Russia, including Imports and Exports.*

GREAT BRITAIN, during the last twenty-five years, has employed about *six hundred ships and seven thousand sailors* in her commerce with Russia; which commerce, from the ice in the Baltic, can only subsist during the summer. These ships are, on an average, from two to three hundred tons burthen, with a complement of about ten to twelve men and boys in each. One half of them generally make two, and a few three voyages in the course of the summer, and are principally fitted out from London, Hull, and the eastern ports of this island as far as Inverness. They import from
B Russia,

Russia, hemp and flax, linen, tallow, hides, iron, deals, and several other subordinate sundries enumerated in a subsequent table. Of late years the total amount of these imports has exceeded *three millions sterling*. Sir J. Dalrymple, in a pamphlet written by him ten years ago, states, from the information of a Russia merchant, the imports into Britain, from St. Petersburg alone, in 1788, to have amounted to 2,689,777*l.* exclusive of sixty-eight ships more from Riga, Wyburgh, Narva, Fredericksham, and Archangel.

Russia, in return, takes from Great Britain a miscellaneous assortment of manufactories and raw produce, amounting, in favourable years, to about *three hundred thousand pounds sterling*. This was the average of three years, from 1777 to 1780; and without making any deduction for the extra expences of Sound duties, freight, insurance, expenditure of sailors' wages, port fees, &c. Consequently, the clear annual gain, or balance in favour of Russia, in her commerce with Britain, is between *two and three millions sterling*, which is paid to her in cash, or in bills on the Continent. It appears that within the short space of three years, from 1777 to 1780, upwards of one hundred British ships were added to her Russian commerce: and it might naturally have been

been expected that the exports would have kept pace with the imports from thence. So far from increasing, they have been gradually declining. The Court of St. Petersburg has always been as covetous as it is ambitious in its dealings with foreign nations; and has seized, with avidity, upon every opportunity to blight the importation and consumption of all articles of foreign production which she can contrive to manufacture at home. For this purpose Russian agents have long been dispersed throughout Europe, and Britain in particular, in the seduction of artizans of every description. I have not taken the same trouble to ascertain, from the Custom-house books, the balance against Great Britain, of the Russian traffic during the last ten years of war. But as this has been throughout a war of unprecedented expenditure to us both by sea and land, my general statement of Russian profits is not likely to be over-rated.

A Table shewing the staple Articles and Value of Imports from Russia into Britain in 1783.

Hemp	L. 704, 126	Deals	L. 140, 000
Flax	250, 425	Potashes	20, 646
Cordage	10, 600	Isinglass	32, 700
Linen	294, 093	Linseed	24, 768
Tallow	565, 622	Hogs bristles	35, 280
Hides	30, 825	Sundries	123, 920
Iron	457, 070		

Let us now make a few comments upon this commercial catalogue, beginning with hemp, flax, linen.—The principal consumption of the raw material is in the manufactory of sail cloth, cordage, and linen. It is reasonable to ask, why liberal encouragement, instead of prohibition, has not been dealt by the legislature, for the cultivation of this essential production of agriculture? To do this effectually, Bills of Inclosures, and Tythe Laws, must be revised. If hemp is become to us as indispensable as corn, we cannot praise the prudence of British ministers, who have trusted so long for this indispensable necessary to a capricious foreign power. Ireland rears all the flax of her unrivalled linens. France seldom expended above fifty thousand pounds sterling annually in Russia, although her exports there amounted to five times that sum. Besides, we have, or should have, many other resources in defiance of Russia, from the East Indies, Egypt, North America, and, with some encouragement and colonization, from the Cape of Good Hope. It appears, from the table, that Britain consumes as much in value of Russia linen, annually, as the latter takes from her of all her manufactured and raw produce. Is this too another profitable importation from this pretended benefactor? — Tallow: A sufficient quantity for soap and candles might soon be pro-

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produced in Britain and Ireland, if more oxen were used in agriculture. Some systematic regulation is required from our legislature, for encouraging, and gradually compelling, our farmers to employ at least as many labouring oxen as horses. Nor is this our only resource. To the north of Buenos Ayres, and the river Plata, cattle run wild in such multitudes that they are slaughtered merely for the tongues and hides. By a judicious exertion in the fisheries of the North and South Seas, we might still more abound in animal oil for domestic uses. Lamps are cheap, convenient, and ornamental, and encourage both our fisheries and glass manufactories.--Iron : As this is the most universal and the cheapest of all metallic ores, though not the least useful, there might, perhaps, be found in the bowels of our mountains, in both islands, a sufficient supply, and of fuel also for smelting the ore. Russia iron can only be used in anchors and other coarse manufactories of that metal : the Swedish is employed in cutlery. Many other countries of Europe and Asia yield iron of the best quality. —Deals are used in our arsenals, and in domestic uses. But it is a disgrace to our legislature that we have not in both islands an abundant stock of larches, and of all other useful timber. In the mean time we know that any quantity of deal, tar, and rosin, may
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be had from North America, and from many other parts of the Mediterranean: of the vegetable alkali, potash, and of the mineral alkali, natron, abundance may be procured elsewhere. Bees wax, enumerated amongst the sundries, might surely be produced at home, sufficient for our own consumption. Honey, as an article of food, would increase the comforts of the people. One thousand years ago, honey and water, fermented with mulberry juice, was the most precious beverage at the banquet of British Princes.

I come last to the most plausible argument of Russian partizans and interested merchants, the *British ships and sailors* employed in this commerce. But from these seven thousand sailors we should deduct one half, because the commerce subsists and maintains them during the summer only. If, on their return home, they cannot find other employment during the winter, they are thrown idle on shore. A new and general arrangement in the prosecution and extension of our domestic fisheries would maintain in constant employment *ten times* the number of all our Baltic sailors; and still more so, if the capital employed to aggrandize that nation was converted into this use. Indeed the sum lavished on Russia, in this boasted commerce, exceeds the peace establish-

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ment of our whole navy. The principal and interest of this commercial drain would then be expended at home, instead of enabling the emperor Paul to insult and injure his principal benefactor; to procure, through Britain, both the means and the station for subduing the Ottoman empire; to threaten the British dominions in Asia; and, in concert with the French usurper, to overwhelm, in military despotism, every vestige of liberty over the civilized globe. The island of *Malta* alone, which, after a two years siege, we have now fortunately acquired, and *must for ever retain*, can even now furnish more sailors to Britain than are maintained by the Baltic commerce: and this is the island which the sovereign of Russia, after his mercenary assistance to our ally, Austria, demands as a boon and respite for refraining, *at present*, from hostilities against Britain. This is his excuse for seizing upon British property, and ships in his harbours, to the value of two millions sterling.

It would not be difficult to prove that the commerce of Russia with Britain alone is more lucrative than with all the other nations of Europe. Thus, in 1797, the imports of Russia from all other nations of Europe (Britain excepted) amounted to 1,176,000*l.*; her exports

to

to those nations to 895,000*l.* ; leaving a balance of nearly three hundred thousand pounds sterling against her. As to her southern commerce, with China, Tartary, Persia, and the Ottomans, I believe that the united value of the bartered commodities fall short of that with Britain singly. It must be obvious that I am not here attempting to form any precise estimate of the intrinsic value of raw imports of the first necessity to Russian manufactories, and imported by her from those nations. It fulfils my design, if I should convince the reader that the Russian commerce with Britain is not a theme of such national exultation as that mercantile company endeavour to inculcate. It is not economical ; and before I have finished, I shall demonstrate that it is not harmless in other respects. In our commercial and diplomatic dealings with Russia, we seem to have been constantly the dupes. Within the present generation we have seen British ministers conducting a Russian fleet from the Baltic into the Mediterranean, and rendering them more than indirect assistance to destroy the Turkish navy, and to penetrate through the Dardanelles to Constantinople. We have soon after seen the Northern empress requite this assistance, by putting herself, in conjunction with another deceitful ally, the king of Prussia, at the head of an hostile confederacy,

the

the *armed neutrality*. We are now about to experience a repetition of the same stifled envy from her son Paul. During the last two years he has received a large subsidy from Britain for training his land forces in actual service; at the same time his crazy navy has been repaired in our ports, and disciplined in naval tactics at our expence. These are short-sighted expedients, and specimens "*cum multis aliis*" of diplomatic quackery? Can any judicious man deny that our mercantile and political system do not require revision? I know not whether this is the case at present; but I am not singular in suspecting that the extraneous politics respecting Hanover have too frequently given a wrong bias to our Continental treaties; at least, I cannot in any other way account for a large portion of that crude and distorted system.

CHAPTER II.

Of the Commerce between Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire, or the Levant, including Exports and Imports.

THE principal exports from Britain, and indeed of most other nations, to the Levant, are cloth, shalloons, muslins, clocks, watches, fire-arms, hard-ware, earthen-ware, tin, lead, spices, sugar, coffee, cochineal, and indigo. The imports from the Levant to Britain are cotton, silk, black goat's wool, some drugs, dried fruits, and other sundries hereafter enumerated.

At the beginning of the last or eighteenth century, a Turkey merchant was the most respectable on the Exchange of London: but some time before, and from the middle of that century, this commerce was declining. In a petition presented to Parliament by the Directors of that Company, in 1774, they prayed certain regulations to revive their drooping commerce, which even then, according to their statement, had exported, during the preceding twenty years, of British cloth, to the amount of

180,000*l.* annually, exclusive of many other collateral articles of value. Their profits were still more diminished by the expences of an Ambassador at Constantinople, of Consuls at Smyrna and Aleppo, by bribes and presents, by the partiality shewn to the Russian trade, and by several direct and indirect schemes of monopoly on the part of their rivals the Russian Company. One of these schemes, actually proposed and attempted, was to transfer the Levant trade through the circuitous route of the inland rivers and seas of Russia. The illiberal system adopted, and pursued to this day, by the Directors of the Turkey Company, was equally repugnant to the sound principles of commerce. With the narrow and selfish prejudices of a trading corporation, they endeavoured to curtail both the imports and exports, by restricting the voyages of their own ships, and, by *their by-laws*, throwing obstacles in the way of private adventurers; *by such manœuvres contriving to enhance the price of the British exports in the Levant, and of the Levant imports in Britain.*

From these and other causes, perhaps amongst the number the sacrifice of too much capital in the North American trade, the French succeeded, throughout the greatest part of the last century, to make rapid advances, and almost to supplant every other nation

nation in the Levant commerce. In Languedoc alone, eighty thousand pieces of cloth were annually manufactured for the Turkey markets. Although inferior in substance to the British cloth, its colour, softness, and lightness, obtained it a precedence, or rather more numerous purchasers. By their intrigues in the Divan, by obtaining a reduction of the usual customs in their favour, and by the prudent encouragement of their own government, which laid the trade open, and tolerated no monopolizing corporation, the French, until the present war, had engrossed the greatest part of this lucrative traffic: it was one principal nursery of their navy; it furnished employment to *twelve thousand sailors*, and perhaps to a million of persons on land.

I proceed next to a more critical detail of the *British exports to the Levant*, beginning with cloths, muslins, and shalloons.—Woollen cloth was formerly the great support of the British Turkey Company; but since the French, as before mentioned, found means to supplant them, this article has declined prodigiously in sale. England, however, still maintains the sway in fine cloths, notwithstanding the rivalry of the Dutch with cloth from Leipsick. Muslins from England have the preference in the Levant, and the traffic has increased since those

those of the East-India Company have been excluded from Suez. The great manufactory of shalloons is at Halifax in Yorkshire. This is an article which forms one of the principal branches of British commerce with the Levant. The number consumed there may annually amount to twenty thousand pieces. No nation has hitherto been able to rival Britain in those stuffs, although many attempts have been made. British muslins have greatly prejudiced the sale of French cloths in the Levant. Manchester stuffs also, were the Turkey patterns imitated, would find an extensive demand there.—Clocks, watches, fire-arms, hard-ware, earthen-ware: the consumption of clocks and watches in the Levant is immense. The French and Genevans have often attempted to cripple the English manufactory, but without complete success; owing, in a considerable degree, to the solidity and excellence of the work. Fire-arms are exported there by the English, French, Dutch, and Venetians. England, however, from the superior quality of the workmanship, enjoys a preference; as does her hard-ware and cutlery. Our Staffordshire earthen-ware is in great repute. Some glass articles are also exported there to advantage.—Tin, lead, and lead-shot:—Before the increase, within the last twenty years, of tin exported to China, Great Britain had sent one quarter of the

the annual produce of Cornwall to the Levant. She also sends there a considerable quantity of lead and lead-shot, spices, sugar, coffee, cochineal, and indigo. The consumption of pepper, ginger, and other spices, is very great in the Levant; and Britain now holds the keys of that market. Until the present war, the French exported there immense quantities of powdered sugars, and of coffee, from their West-India Islands and America. These formed two staple articles of their Turkey traffic. By our recent insular acquisition in that quarter, we may in future hope to participate in the sale of two articles in such universal demand. Indigo and cochineal we share with France.

Of the British imports from the Levant, the principal are raw materials,—cotton wool, silk, and black goat's wool. Besides six or seven thousand bales of cotton imported annually in British bottoms, the Dutch contrived to be carriers of a still greater quantity to us. But by the late important possession of *Malta*, and the projected improvement in the Lazarettas in England, it is probable that no material interruption to our own imports, in consequence of pestilential infection, will hereafter occur: nor is it necessary now to trust to one market for this supply; the East and West Indies

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dies and America all contributing great quantities. Since the increased importation of raw silk from Bengal and China by the East India Company, the demand from Turkey is greatly decreased. As the silk worms and the white mulberry tree, the leaves of which are the proper food of this extraordinary insect, thrive well in Germany, and also in the island of Japan, where the climate is both irregular and rainy, I think experiments should be made to promote and augment, through this means, the productive industry of our own people.—Black goat's wool is a necessary in the manufactory of hats. We should also try if that animal would thrive in this island without injuring the fleece. Our remaining miscellaneous imports from the Levant are sena, opium, scammony, gum Arabic, tragacanth, diaganth, copal, raisins, figs, black fruit, madder, valenca, sponges, emery, buffalo's horns, mohair, carpets—

From the invaluable acquisition of that central Island of the Mediterranean, *Malta*, with its renowned harbour, its impregnable fortifications, and its superior conveniencies for quarantine; from the services already rendered, and which must soon again be rendered by Great Britain to uphold the Ottoman Porte, we may flatter ourselves with being henceforth more successful candidates in the Levant commerce.

merce. Ireland, now incorporated with Britain, from its convenient situation should direct its attention to this extensive and profitable market. Mr. Eaton, in his Survey of the Turkish Empire, says, that German and Egyptian *linen*, of a coarse and open texture, is there in great demand: he also says that *salt fish* would find numerous purchasers in the Levant. Every liberal mind will rejoice at the approaching annihilation of the British slave trade. That capital would be more effectually employed in the numerous branches of traffic with the Levant, and with Africa: a traffic at which merchants need not be ashamed, nor conscience in danger of being tormented. I could easily prove, were this the proper place, that, with the assistance of Britain, and the knowledge which it contains, pestilential infection might be totally eradicated from every quarter of the Levant. Before I close this chapter, I shall add a few more words of animadversion respecting the English Turkey Company. That Company has no common stock, or capital: their charter is an exclusive and surreptitious privilege for a few individuals to monopolize, from all other British subjects, the trade of the Ottomans. Twenty pounds, it is true, paid to this company entitles any one to trade to Smyrna, &c. ; but their *by-laws*, which Parliament as yet have suffered them to model and retain, curb and destroy all liberal adventure.

adventure. They have already done so much injury to their country by this charter, that it should be burnt by the hangman. No trade to the Levant from Britain can flourish until this Company is disfranchised of all its pernicious prerogatives.

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CHAPTER III.

Of the Projects of Russia against the Ottoman Dominions, and the Means of counteracting them.

A CELEBRATED military writer (Lloyd) justly infers, from the events of many wars, that the different governments contribute as much towards their successful termination, as the goodness of the troops, or the genius of their general. Having now, therefore, in the two preceding chapters, discussed the commercial relations of Britain, Russia, and Turkey, the two succeeding chapters may be termed Political and Military. To be enabled to form any accurate judgment of the relative force of Russia and Turkey, or indeed of any other nation, we must previously glance at their respective population, government, revenue, military force, frontiers, fortresses, and the line of operation upon which they have hitherto acted for attack and defence. This being done, I shall take the liberty to suggest a new plan and line of operations better suited to the present debilitated condition of the Ottoman empire.

Every

Every literary person knows that, little more than one hundred years ago, Russia, under the auspices of Peter the First, or Great, as he is usually styled, began to emerge from the lowest stage of civilization, in nothing superior to the present Ottoman. The whole country had been buried for ages under a long night of profound barbarism. Since that æra the Russian empire has steadily advanced with unparalleled rapidity to its present gigantic rank in military and naval power. The projects of internal reformation, and of foreign conquest, begun and bequeathed by Peter as a legacy to his successors, has been pursued with unremitting perseverance, and, unfortunately for the neighbouring states, with too much success. From his example and political precepts, Russia, in every war down to the present time, has been the aggressor. During the intervals of peace that Cabinet has been indefatigable in exciting internal dissensions amongst all the bordering nations; and when a convenient opportunity occurred to throw off the mask, it has converted those distractions to Russian emolument and aggrandisement. Sweden, Courland, Poland, Turkey, Tartary, Persia, can all bear evidence to these hostile plans and unprovoked outrages. The Russian empire, thus aggrandised in Europe and in Asia,

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now consists, according to Mr. Tooke, in his recent history of that nation, of thirty-six millions of inhabitants; thirty-two of them in Europe. But as many independent and remote tribes on the S. and E. and some even on the north-west coast of North America, have been prematurely enumerated in Mr. Tooke's official list, as forming a portion of the Russian dominions, we may probably deduct six millions, leaving the Russian empire a population of almost one fourth of Europe. Within the present generation, above eight millions of them have been taken from Poland and Turkey. The Russian government (constitution would be a misplaced term) is a simple well-organized military despotism; and this obedience is still more strongly riveted by an affluent catholic priesthood, and an ignorant, credulous and bigoted people. The monarch has not, like the Ottoman Divan, any tribunal to controul his actions or his passions; he is supreme in legislative and executive power, and his ukaises and edicts announce the law, "sic volo, sic jubeo." The present land force of Russia amounts to half a million: the soldiers are well versed in every branch of European tactics, brave, obedient, and contented with a coarse and scanty subsistence. The Russian naval force, as to the number of large ships, is also formidable; but they are neither well

constructed, nor of durable materials; and their sailors are yet far inferior in naval tactics to the other great maritime powers. In the Baltic, Russia has more than sixty sail of the line; and in the Euxine, or Black Sea, twenty, exclusive of frigates, gun boats, flotillas, &c. &c.

Three centuries and a half have elapsed since Constantinople, the last remnant of the Roman and Greek empire, was entered by storm, and the Mahometan standard of the Turks planted, for the first time, on the Christian cathedral of St. Sophia. The present Ottoman empire in Europe and Asia, notwithstanding its prodigious and progressive depopulation throughout the last century, is still, perhaps, not inferior, in this respect, to Russia. To rude distempered government, to haughty ignorance, and predestinarian dogmas respecting pestilential and other contagion, and to the neglect and discouragement of agriculture, this waste of the human species in Turkey may in a great degree be attributed. The Ottoman power for attack and defence would be infinitely greater, was it, like any other European state, connected together by general laws, and uniform obedience; was it to imitate the system which, in not more than three generations, has elevated Russia to its present eminence in military

tary power, that is, by courting the instruction of its more enlightened neighbours, and rewarding its preceptors with liberality. In its numerous disjointed governments of pacas or proconsuls, in the execution of the laws, in the collection of the revenue, in the organization and discipline of the military force, all is oppression, disorder and mutiny. The bigoted and illiterate Ulema, or Great Council of Lawyers and Priests, are constantly occupied in promoting their own interest and importance, regardless of the public disorder and distress; in exclaiming against rational reform, and in thwarting the liberal efforts of their Sultan to revive a respectable military force. Notwithstanding the toleration of numerous Christian bishops of the Greek church, the subjects of that religion, dispersed through all parts of the empire, bear with impatience and rancour their iron yoke, and the public marks of their civil degradation. In many provinces of Europe and Asia, both Christians and Mahometans have long been in a state of resistance or revolt; in some obedience is merely nominal, and in a few there is a total severation from the supreme head. With all these symptoms of bad government and degeneracy, the public revenue, or miri, is estimated at four millions and a half sterling, and the private revenue of the Sultan at a still greater sum. A large portion of this last is said

to be always stored in the vaults of the seraglio for extraordinary emergencies. The once formidable Janizaries have long since degenerated into a tumultuous rabble, more dangerous to the Sultan than to the enemy; and are now intentionally suffered to moulder away in contempt. Upon the ocean, the Ottomans never have made any conspicuous figure; and their fleet at this day is inferior, both in number and discipline, to that of the Russians in the Black Sea alone. At the oar the Turk is allowed to be sufficiently dextrous; but their best sailors are from Greece, Malta and Barbary. They have good dock-yards at Constantinople and at Sinope, and can build ships there at one fourth the expence of England.

During the reign of the late empress, General Lloyd commanded a Russian army against the Turks, and crossed the Danube to attack them. We cannot appeal to better authority for the military character and force of the Turkish army than to this author. The greatest part of the Turkish army, like the antient feudal militia, serves only for a certain time; when this is elapsed, they go home, and abandon the posts confided to them, whether they are relieved by other troops or not,—which happened at Gurgowa and Ibrailow on the Danube, a few days after they had repulsed the Russians with

considerable loss. Unaccustomed to the discipline and subordination of a regular army, they do not act on a constant regular plan; they march, encamp, and fight in a loose disorderly manner, insomuch that, if attacked briskly, they can never form so as to make any tolerable resistance. Chance, the caprice of a pacha, or of a few men who advance to skirmish, very often brings on a general engagement, or rather a multiplicity of partial actions, without any unity of object or design. In these attacks, from ignorance, and the irregularity with which they are made, totally unconnected with each other, they are the more violent and impetuous, and extremely dangerous, if not opposed with vigour and firmness. The defeat of this or that body does not, as with us, prevent the others from advancing and breaking your line if they can; and if they succeed in one or two points, their great number of horse, who act singly, gives them a prodigious activity. They over-run and spread themselves over the whole country; no ground is impervious to them; so that an army once broke, can scarce avoid a general destruction, unless favoured in its retreat by some particular circumstances, and an uncommon firmness and conduct of the general. For these reasons, such troops are formidable and dangerous in their assaults, but weak when attacked, and easily thrown into con-

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confusion, and totally dispersed, if pursued with vigour, but with great order and caution: for, sometimes strong parties will stop short if they perceive you are in disorder, will attack you with impetuosity, and often with success.

The Asiatic troops generally carry into the field all they possess, which greatly embarrasses them, and, in case of a defeat, makes their loss irretrievable; for, not being able to make any disposition for a retreat, camp, artillery, equipage, &c. is abandoned to the victors, and all, without exception, seek their safety in flight—a great part goes home, and returns no more. At present, that enthusiasm which rendered them for the most part victorious, is totally extinguished: plunder is now the only motive which spurs them to action; if successful, they are extremely formidable; if otherwise, they despond, and can with difficulty, and generally not at all, be brought a second time to face the enemy. A new general, and a new army much worse than the former, is collected with difficulty, and brought into the field very late in the season, and, far from attempting to oppose the adversary with vigour, retires, or rather flies as he advances, abandoning one part after another, and finally the whole province: so that you have nothing to do but

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march to the capital, which you will find deserted: nothing can retard this, but want of provisions.

In such an extensive despotic empire, two bad consequences ensue: first, that the frontiers must be weak in proportion to their extent: secondly, that their armies come late into the field, and, being loaded with equipages, and moreover accompanied by a crowd of followers, under different denominations, subject to no order or discipline, the country is soon exhausted, so that they cannot keep the field above three months; if you can check their operations in the beginning, they retire, and leave you at liberty to prosecute your plan without any opposition. From ignorance, or rather from design, they have few strong places; so that nothing can retard your operations, but their army, or want of subsistence; and that being defeated, and this subsistence provided, you meet with no other obstacle but such as arises from the nature of the country. As their armies are very numerous in cavalry, it is dangerous to act against them by detachments, unless they are intimidated by a former defeat. Romanzow, in the war before the last, followed another plan, and lost many detachments; and if the Turks had known any thing of war, his
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whole army would have been destroyed separately.

We are now prepared to examine the respective frontiers and line of operation for attack and defence between Russia and Turkey, to comment upon the vulnerable sides of each, and to form some rational prognostic of the event of impending hostilities between them. Throughout the last century, this line of operation was on and between the river Dniester and the Dnieper or Boristhenes, and also through Little Tartary, upon the north borders of the Black Sea. Chotrim and Bender, upon the Dniester, are the frontier fortresses of Turkey; Kiow, Kinburn, and now Oezakow, are the opposite barriers of Russia. The late peace advanced this frontier to the Bog river, and into nearer contact with their adversary in Moldavia. But, says General Lloyd, "if either power did not occupy the intermediate fruitful angle of Poland, and draw their subsistence from thence, neither could have acted on this line, and of course their wars would have been confined to Little Tartary and the Crimea, on which the Russians have the advantage, as well from the position and direction of their frontier, which enables them to attack that country in different parts, as from the proximity of their depots, the course of the rivers, &c."

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On this last-mentioned frontier a numerous army of cavalry can alone act with success against Russia. It is evident, from the direction of the Turkish frontier, that the Russians cannot approach the Dniester and Moldavia, if the Turks could prevail on thirty or forty thousand Tartar cavalry to advance through the intermediate space into Poland, and another corps into Russia between the Boristhenes and the Don. If such a disposition was made and executed, the Russians, far from advancing across Moldavia and the Danube, would find it difficult to preserve their own country, which, like Poland, is plain, open and defenceless, and cannot be defended by any armies whatever, constituted as ours are, against the incursion and ravage of one hundred thousand active horsemen. Remember Peter the Great on the Pruth, and endeavouring to penetrate through Moldavia: had not the Vizier been bribed in the night, as may be read in Voltaire, the whole Russian army, and its sovereign, must have been starved, or have surrendered at discretion.

This plan and line of operation might again be successful against Russia, did we not reflect that Poland is subjugated, and the Tartars intimidated; that the Ottoman empire has descended as rapidly as the Russian has ascended; that,
after

after two years, in which Turkey has been wantonly forced into hostilities by the French dictator, she has not been able to subdue a handful of Frenchmen in Egypt, nor a rebel pacha, a mercenary tool of Russia, who has still longer insulted her metropolis. These are alarming symptoms of inferiority to her adversary. In the field we lately read of nothing but Ottoman confusion, panic and disgrace. At Acre alone, assisted by a thousand British sailors, the late Ottoman defence may have been equalled, but cannot be surpassed.

To rescue the Ottoman empire from impending ruin, I conceive that *a new plan and line of operation must be speedily adopted*. My proposition for that purpose is, that the Ottoman Porte should, in consequence of a previous treaty, cede the two provinces of Moldavia and Walachia to the king of Hungary, to whom, both in a territorial and commercial view, they would be eminently beneficial, and to whom by geographical and mutual interest they should naturally belong. This cession being made and accepted, the Ottoman frontiers and line of operation in that quarter would be much less extensive and more easily defended, and Russia would be excluded from attacking her by land. A superior navy on the Black Sea, for which she must at present be indebted to Britain, would then render

der the Ottoman invulnerable from the side of Russia; the Porte would have time to prepare a disciplined land force, and, by conciliating and uniting all the subjects under a more liberal system of government, would effectually provide against future danger. Throughout the last century, in all the wars with Russia and the Turks, Moldavia and Walachia have been at the outset over-run and pillaged by each army, and are on that account become of trifling value to the Ottoman revenue. Their Greek princes, who are nominated by the Porte, are necessarily as discontented as the subjects, and impatient to change masters, or to be independent. In making this cession, Turkey would only follow the example of one of the wisest of the Roman emperors, who, in the plenitude of Roman power, voluntarily abdicated Dacia, including those two provinces, together with Hungary, to the northern hordes. Two centuries earlier, Augustus had the prudence to prescribe the Danube as the north boundary of the Roman empire.

As to any land attacks of Russia or Turkey between the Euxine and Caspian seas and the difficult passes of Mount Caucasus, neither power in the opinion of Lloyd can make war there with much advantage. Russia has long been in the habit of tampering with the neighbouring tributary

tributary princes, to withdraw their allegiance from the Porte. The principal line of operation therefore would, on the new plan above suggested, be contracted to the Black Sea; and the nearest port of the Crimea, Sebastopolis, is 500 miles distant from Constantinople; Kinburn is still further removed: from Sinope, a naval port, on the coast of Asia Minor, Sebastopolis is 150 miles distant. In the present state of things, the Turks could derive very trifling assistance against Russia, from a renewal of their former subsidiary alliance with Sweden. The Swedes are now nearly sunk in a state of vassalage to Russia: at this instant their rash King is engaged with Russia to make war against Britain; although, not many years since, the critical interference of Britain rescued that distracted kingdom from becoming a Russian province. Such is the modern morality and gratitude of those northern cabinets and sovereigns.

Mr. Eaton, before mentioned, who resided many years in Turkey, and during the last war served in the Russian army against the Turks, and who from such opportunities of information was admitted into the confidence of Prince Potemkin the generalissimo, and into his state secrets, informs us, in nearly the following words: "Long before the last war, and ever since the Russian cabinet and Empress had spread

“ spread emissaries among the Greek Chris-
 “ tians, particularly in the Morea and Macedo-
 “ nia, and throughout European Turkey: the
 “ Greeks had, in consequence of promises of
 “ effectual assistance, organised their plan in
 “ concert with the Russian cabinet. They en-
 “ gaged to march an army of *three hundred*
 “ *thousand Greek Christians*, who were all to
 “ rendezvous at Adrianople, and, in conjunction
 “ with the Russian army, to attack Constanti-
 “ nople.” In another place he says, “ The late
 “ Empress never would sign a treaty with Bri-
 “ tain, nor any other Power, at the commence-
 “ ment of the French revolution, without pre-
 “ viously stipulating that they should not
 “ interfere with her projects against Turkey.
 “ This was the *fine qua non*. She had then
 “ in readiness three hundred thousand land
 “ forces, a superior fleet in the Black Sea, and
 “ a flotilla of armed vessels built for the purpose
 “ of landing sixty thousand troops in shallow
 “ water near Constantinople, which was a short
 “ voyage of only three days: at the same time
 “ the grand land army, penetrating across
 “ Moldavia and the Danube, was to have co-
 “ operated in this decisive attack upon the
 “ bulwark of the Ottoman power. A third army
 “ was also in readiness to have crossed the
 “ Caspian Sea, and, in conjunction with some
 “ of the Persian khans previously gained over,

“ were to have attacked the Asiatic provinces
 “ of Turkey.” Mr. E——n continues to say,
 “ that the Empress’s views of aggrandizement
 “ were very great: they went to the entire
 “ conquest of all European Turkey, of making
 “ Egypt an independent state, of giving to
 “ Poland a Russian sovereign, *and ultimately*
 “ *incorporating it with her own empire;* of
 “ making a conquest of Japan, and, of a bor-
 “ dering part of Corea and China, conve-
 “ nient for establishing a dock-yard, and with
 “ the dock-yards proposed to be formed in the
 “ opposite N. W. coast of North America, *of*
 “ *establishing a naval force in those seas.*”

It was impossible for any conqueror, of Saracen, Hun, or Tartar extraction, to have meditated more outrageous schemes of domination. Those of the French Directory, or of its present Dictator, can only stand in competition with this female Attila. After so many years prevarication and subterfuge, her pledged assistance to the confederacy against France was a mere decoy to embroil and exhaust the leading Powers of Europe, that she might pounce upon and devour the Turk without interruption. Her son and successor Paul is not endowed with equal understanding; neither has he given proofs of more tender feelings or morality.

In the prominent features and character of the Russian cabinet, the philosopher cannot fail to discern a kindred combination of the Asiatic and Tartar. From Mr. E——n's and other authority, we learn that her grandson Constantine, and second son of the present Paul, was early educated in the Greek language, in order that he might be qualified to act the part of Viceroy over European Turkey, so long as this farce was convenient; and in order, no doubt, to prevent the European Powers from being too suddenly startled at the frightful magnitude of their danger. As to the specious promises of liberty and independence held out to the Greeks of the Morea, it would have terminated like the liberty of the Poles, and of the Greek Christians of the Crimea. On the conquest of this last-mentioned fertile peninsula, and one of the granaries of Constantinople, Mr. E——n witnessed seventy thousand of its Christian inhabitants dragged from their homes to colonize a part of Little Tartary; but from their grief and hardships, he says, seven thousand only survived to the end of the year. These remarks, if justly estimated, tend to shew the weak and vulnerable parts of the Ottomans, and to display the immediate necessity of their coming to a good understanding with their Greek subjects: this would prove a mutual advantage, and without it they are undone.

A harbour near Greece and the Dardanelles has long been a favourite pursuit of the Russian cabinet. The late Empress, says Mr. E——n, had proposed to purchase the sovereignty of the little island *Lampedosa* from the King of Naples. Except Malta, it is one of the best stations in the Mediterranean for a fleet, and, with a trifling expence, could be made an excellent harbour: from Malta, Sicily, and Africa, it is one hundred miles distant. It was determined to establish a dock-yard there, to fortify it, and to institute in it an *Order of Knighthood of Russians and Greeks*. Paul has recently succeeded, by his treaty with England and Austria, to obtain possession of Corfu, a good island and harbour, and almost within sight of Greece. This is a convenient rendezvous for his emissaries to recommence their plots, and will serve as a place of arms for supplying the necessary implements. As an additional reward for his perfidy, Paul now demands Malta; and the refusal has excited those sensations of revenge against Britain, which demonstrate the grand objects of this possession; but so far from submitting to this demand, I advise our Ministers to expel him, without delay, from Corfu.

Read the historian Gibbon's eloquent description

scription of Constantinople, and the reasons which determined the Roman emperor Constantine to remove the seat of government from Italy, and to make this the magnificent and central metropolis of the old world. Read, in the same author, the formidable naval expedition which, in the decline of that empire in the reign of Justinian, and under Belisarius, sailed from Constantinople to recover the revolted provinces on the African coast. That inland sea alone, between the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, maintained twenty thousand sailors in its prolific fishery; add to this the numerous isthmuses and indented bays of the Archipelago, and so well adapted to maritime aggrandizement. It appears from the Chevalier Tott, and Mr. Eaton's later account, that Constantinople itself, and the streights leading into it from the Euxine and the Mediterranean, offer too many temptations to a powerful invader, and one incessantly on the watch to strike this decisive and deadly blow. Every one knows that it was the strong fortifications of Constantinople, and the mysterious Greek fire, which, during so many ages, and even centuries, sustained the tottering empire against the reiterated shocks of the northern barbarians, and against the Saracens and Turks.

The latter were at last enabled to surmount
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its solid ramparts, merely through internal discord, and the want of a sufficient garrison. At present, such is the stupid infatuation and negligence of the Ottoman government, that Mr. Eaton demonstrates both the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles to be insufficient barriers against a hostile fleet, and the golden harbour to be accessible to fire-ships. The land face of the triangle, in which Constantinople is built, lies equally exposed; and the Ottoman engineers and artilleryists are not more respectable than the fortifications. These, however, are the keys and the citadel of the Ottoman empire; and if not soon repaired, and defended with skill and resolution, all will be lost. The Russians, once possessed of these keys of the old world, of an additional population almost equal to one half of Europe, of a double land force and revenue, of a navy capable, through this acquisition, of being augmented in a ten-fold degree beyond its present force and number, and at one fourth the expence of every other maritime state:—with these, and many more consequent advantages too numerous to insert in this sketch, I ask, what prospects would all the Mediterranean states have of escaping that vassalage to which those in the Baltic are now subjected by Russia? How long could they flatter themselves with a respite from the yawning cave of Polyphemus? By
what

what route would the English East India Company send or receive their overland dispatches? What expensive precautions must not they and must not Britain herself, immediately adopt? I should tire the reader were I to ask all the questions which on this subject crowd forward, and startle the politician: more important ones never engaged the attention of the British Senate and Cabinet.

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Projects of Russia, not only against the British Dominions in Hindoostan, but also against Persia, China, Japan, Mexico, and the N.W. Coast of North America; with the Means of counteracting them.

NO author, that I have read, has discussed the land invasion of India, upon the grand scale of an engineer, who expands his views to the defence of an entire empire, who discerns the natural and artificial difficulties to be surmounted, and the means of defence which might be adopted. I submit my plan, which has at least some novelty in it, to public criticism; but it requires a few preliminary observations.

If Russia, in its present state, is capable of giving any serious alarm to the British possessions in India, it must be obvious that the subversion of the Ottoman empire would greatly promote those means of annoyance. We learn from Mr. Eaton, and I know it from other authority, that, in resentment of British interference, about ten years ago, respecting Oc-
zakow,

zakow, a plan was suggested to the Russian Cabinet by one St. Genie, a Frenchman, for the invasion of India. Two of the objects proposed by that plan were, the expulsion of the English from Bengal and Bahar, and the reinstatement of the Mogul on the throne of Delhi. We are not told whether another Russian prince, like the young Constantine, the candidate for the Ottoman throne, was to have been educated in the Persian and Sanscrit languages; so that, when the Mogul puppet had performed his part, he might be conveniently dismissed on a pension, as lately happened to the King of Poland, a creature of Russia. In this case, the descendant of Tamerlane would have only changed a Mahratta for a Russian master.

Russia, whose tremendous power and insatiable ambition was one subject of the preceding chapter, has now almost within her grasp the Ottoman and Persian dominions. Within the present circumference of these spacious dominions (if we except Rome) all the venerable kingdoms of antiquity had their root and origin. In this voluptuous centre of the old world, we recognize the Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Median, Persian, Judean, Phœnician, Tyrian, Carthaginian, Grecian, Macedonian, and lastly Roman empire.

pire. During many thousand years, the navigation and commerce of these illustrious nations were circumscribed, or nearly so, to the Euxine, Egean and Mediterranean Seas, and to the Red Sea, Persian Gulph, and Indian Ocean.

India, or Hindoostan. We learn from Herodotus, that, during the earliest and brilliant period of the Persian monarchy, the provinces of Hindoostan bordering on the Indus formed one of the most lucrative satrapies of the Persian revenue. India was afterwards introduced into more general historical notice, by the invasion of the Macedonian conqueror, Alexander, which is nearly three centuries and a half before the Christian æra. He, too, marched from the present European Turkey into Asia Minor, and, after his conquest of Persia, invaded Hindoostan with an army of more than one hundred thousand men. Arrian, his historian, makes us acquainted with his march and line of operation, across the north of Persia, from the Caspian Sea to the river Indus; that is, through the present Candahar and Cabul. It is agreed that Alexander crossed the Indus about Attock, and afterwards its nearest branch, the Hydaspes or Jelum, in defiance of a bordering king, Porus, and his unwieldy line of elephants. After advancing and wantonly ravaging two hundred miles of

the country between the five great branches of the Indus, the present Panjab, and territory of the Seiks, Alexander was wounded and fatigued; and, collecting and building ships, he sailed southwards down the Indus, and his army returned back by a short coasting voyage to Persia. Seventeen centuries seem to have elapsed from Alexander to the second great invasion of India by Tamerlane. This man of blood was born near Samarcand, about midway between the Caspian and Indus, and had, or affected to have, a pedigree of several generations in descent from the ferocious Mogul Tartar, Zenghis Khan. Tamerlane's first successes were against his neighbouring tribes and rivals, and against Persia; he then set out from Samarcand with an army of ninety thousand cavalry, to invade India. This army, in two separate divisions, crossed the Indus near Attock and at Moultan, and, forming a junction in the Panjab, advanced to Delhi. Tamerlane had previously ascertained, by his spies, that the Delhi empire, which four centuries before had passed into the hands of the Mahometan Sultan of Ghizni, was in a state of anarchy and weakness; and he succeeded, by a decisive victory, in becoming master of the metropolis. After erecting, according to his usual custom, a triumphal pyramid of ninety thousand human skulls, the victims of his ambition,

bition, he returned back the same year to Samarcand, and, one hundred years after, his descendants successfully revived their ancestor's bloody patent and title to the Delhi throne. Many reciprocal predatory incursions and conquests upon each other of the restless powers seated on each side of the Indus are recorded, from the time of Alexander to the arrival of the Europeans in Hindoostan ; but these must be learned from the Asiatic historians.

The transient invasion and plunder of Delhi by Nadir Shah, the Persian usurper, in the present century, is well known, and need not be repeated. All the European nations have found their way to India by the sea: amongst the earliest intruders were the Portugueze, now dwindled into insignificance. The principal possessions of Britain in Hindoostan have been acquired within the latter half of the last century; and it is admitted that this has been the most happy and tranquil period in the history of Hindoostan, particularly in those provinces subjected to Britain. With the exception of the splendid reigns of the Mongul Ackbar and Aurengzebe, India has been almost incessantly rent with feudal anarchy and civil discord ; and when a convenient opportunity presented, these emperors were obeyed by their tributary vassals, like the Emperor of Germany

many by his nine independent electors. To this feudal system, disaffection and revolt, the Europeans are indebted for their first admission and success.

India, in its general shape, resembles a cone, or sugar loaf; the point of this cone, at Ceylon and Cape Comarin, is little more than five degrees north of the equator: its great northern base, attached to the snowy mountains of Thibet, passes by several degrees the tropic of Cancer; and its breadth in that part is not much inferior to the length. In proportion to its extent, India has very few good harbours. On the east, Trincomale alone deserves that epithet: on the west side, Nature has been more bountiful; we there find Mangalore, Goa, Bombay, and several others of inferior *te*. This great peninsula is now partitioned into about ten or a dozen leading states, exclusive of Ranas, Rajahs, and independent tribes in great number. The predominant states are the British, Oude, Seiks, West and East Mahrattas, Rajapoots, Nizam, Arcot, Mysore, Travancore; and the population is equal to half of Europe.

The principal possessions of Great Britain are on the north-east extremity of India, including Bengal, Bahar, and Benares. Bengal is one continued plain, like Egypt or the
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Netherlands, the majestic Ganges running nearly through its centre. From the snow and storms in the elevated mountains of Thibet, and the annual periodical rains, this river rises to overflow its banks, and to inundate the flat country, which is then traversed in numerous boats, and the scene enlivened by a busy inland navigation. The native Gentoo population of those three provinces is equal to that of Great Britain and Ireland; and their area in square miles is greater. The annual revenue is stated at seven millions sterling, almost the whole of which is expended in the necessary establishments of government. This government is gradually approximating to the Gentoo code and established customs, so far as is consistent with the political dependence and subordination of this remote state; and the native agriculture and manufactures are eminently benefited by British connections. The military force of these, together with the southern establishments of Britain, might, in extraordinary emergencies, be raised to one hundred thousand men, well disciplined and commanded, and adapted for every purpose of war; and the auxiliary force of the British allies may be rated at as many more. On the north and east these three provinces are defended by a strong natural barrier of mountains covered with snow, and by broad rivers and forests: the Bengal sea

washes the south-east; but along the south the Mahrattas touch the British frontier, which in many places is pervious to both infantry and cavalry. The west frontier, towards Delhi and the Indus, is in a great degree covered by the broad arch and four united branches of the Ganges, that is, from Allahab to a little above Patna. On the front and right of this frontier the British ally, Oude, is placed. Fort William, commanding the entrance from the sea to Calcutta, is the only regular British fortress in the north of India.

We may now proceed systematically to examine what prospect of success, by the proposed plan, the Russian Cabinet can rationally entertain against the British possessions in Hindoostan. Until the Ottoman and Persian dominions shall be reduced to a state of vassalage or subjection to Russia, their line of operation must proceed from *Astracan*, and from thence across the inland Caspian Sea to Astrabad in Persia, a voyage of 700 miles. From Astrabad to the Indus is a land-march of 900 miles, whether they proceed by the usual route of Candahar and Cabul, or by the northern route of Bochara and Samarcand. By Mr. Foster's Journal it does not appear that the roads from the Caspian to the Indus can be called military roads; and throughout the
greatest

greatest part of this land-march there is no direct convenience of water carriage. The river Cabul has but a short course of 200 miles to reach the Indus, and is said to be inconvenient for navigation. Delhi, in the centre between the Indus and the British frontier, is the next station where water-carriage can be procured. From the Indus through Delhi to the British frontier is 800 miles; making in the whole 2400 miles distance, by the roads, between the Russian and British frontier. This march would be through the present country of the Asgans or Abdalli, and of the feudal Sovereign of Candahar and Cabul; and Persian and Tartar tribes lie on each flank. If the army is numerous, magazines must be collected for the men and horses; and without the assistance or concurrence of the Asgan Sovereign and his tumultuous vassals, the attempt would be too hazardous. Candahar and Cabul, the capital cities of this state, have always been termed the gates into Persia and Tartary from Hindoostan.

Let us, however, suppose, that, somehow or other, all these difficulties are surmounted, and that the Russian army has reached the Indus. What then? Without the permission or aid of the Seiks or Mahrattas, it could not, without great risk, advance to the British frontier.

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The Mahrattas, as Gentoos, would not probably welcome their inveterate enemy the Asgans; nor would it be for the interest of the Seiks to introduce an army of those predatory hordes into their country. The restoration of the Mogul empire could not be agreeable to either, and still less so if dictated by a Russian army. The enemy must also be apprised that the British government at home and in India would not be inactive in putting into motion every engine of annoyance.

From the breadth and rapidity of the Indus, (says Mr. Foster,) if well defended on the opposite side, the attempt of any army to force a passage would be both arduous and full of danger: in another place, he adds, the military character of the English is in the first repute amongst the Asgans of Cabul. The Indus, or Sinde, takes its rise from the mountains of Tartary and Thibet: from thence to its mouth is more than one thousand miles; and there are but *three principal passes* by which it can be crossed by an army: these passes are near its head; Cashmire, the most northern, is 250 miles distant from Moulta; Attock lies in the centre. All the remaining south frontier of India, from Moulta to the sea, is defended by an impervious barrier of mountain, water, and sandy desert. In the rainy season the
country

country near Moultan is marshy and overflowed, and the climate unhealthy. My proposition, therefore, and the essential part of my plan, is, that the British East-India Company, on being apprised of such an intended invasion, should either send a detachment to occupy *Cashmire*, or, what I more strenuously recommend is, to purchase, from the King of Cabul, his precarious sovereignty over this remote province. From that commanding station, with an effective land and naval force, an invader might be prevented from crossing the Indus, the Jelum, and Panjab; or, should this first line of defence be forced, he must encounter the second line upon the British frontier and arch of the Ganges, and at the same time contend with detachments on his flank and rear.

Cashmire lies in the north-west and highest angle of India, in 35 N. latitude, and within about fifty miles of the Indus, at its descent through the mountains. Nature has been prodigal to an extreme in its bounties to this insulated region; and it might well have been selected for the enchanting residence of the first parents of mankind. This delightful valley is of an oval form, 80 miles by 50, surrounded by a massy amphitheatre of stately mountains covered with snow: through these mountains

six difficult passes only open into the luxuriant valley. The Jelum, or Hyphasis, the nearest navigable branch of the Indus, runs through the centre; and towns, villages, fruit trees, flowering shrubs, and innumerable cascades rolling down the mountains, enliven this terrestrial paradise. Here likewise is concentrated the celebrated manufactory of shawls, an article of dress in universal estimation throughout Asia and Europe. Cashmire, says that distinguished geographer Major Rennel, is justly celebrated, throughout all Asia, for its romantic beauties, the fertility of its soil, and the temperature of its atmosphere. It has too long groaned under the tyrannical vicegerents of the Cabul sovereign. Between twenty and thirty lacks of rupees are annually extorted by him from this oppressed people, a very small portion of which is remitted to the Cabul treasury.

Under a just British government, an army sufficient for defending the passes of the Indus and of the Jelum against any invader might be maintained at Cashmire, and the inhabitants enriched and made happy. Indeed, all the north-west frontier Powers of India, the Seiks and Mahrattas, would have good reason to rejoice at the total exclusion of the Cabul plunderers. The climate of Cashmire would, in the annual change of cantonments, be extremely

tremely beneficial to the British army in Bengal, and particularly to the Europeans; it would not only contribute to the restoration of broken constitutions, but would impart to the whole army more resolution and vigour, by bracing their animal spirits and muscular strength. From Rohilcund, at the extremity of Oude, to Cashmire, would not be above 400 miles march along the verge of the mountains in Mr. Foster's track, and avoiding the country of the Seiks. In another view, reflect upon the consequences of suffering a formidable invader to take secure post in Cashmire, and to advance from thence, at his leisure, into Hindoostan, after tampering with the predatory tribes in that route. It is an axiom in fortification, that if there is any commanding ground near the works which would facilitate the attack of an enemy, there an outwork should be erected to exclude him. I consider Cashmire as this outwork to the north-west face of India. An invading army, detained for any considerable time from crossing the Indus and Jelum, both of which admit of defence by land and water, might find themselves in the predicament of the Israelites in the Arabian desert. For more minute information respecting Cashmire, see Foster, Bernier, Rennel, Ayon, and Ackboree.

I now return back to the British frontier and arch of the Ganges. This arch, from Allahab to above Patna, might be made more secure both by land and water. From Allahab through Runiagur, to Cattaek, seems the line and station for covering the south frontier of Bengal. I apprehend Cattaek might, by exchange or purchase, be obtained from the Berar Mahratta. Upon the defence of the British southern possessions in India I shall devote a very few words. As the implacable enemy of the Company, Tippoo Saib, is now overthrown, the Mahrattas and Nizam are the only native powers capable of giving any uneasiness in that quarter; and European enemies must all approach them by the sea. But it cannot be concealed that there is here such an extent and labyrinth of frontier, such an indiscreet territorial monopoly, that the fatal example of the Monguls should have discouraged and limited. The best way to secure friends or allies is to make it their interest to be so: It is an aphorism that should be more attended to by the Directors of the East India Company.

Persia, since the decease of Nadir Shaw, has been a frightful den of uproar, civil war, and massacre. Some years ago it was split into three hostile states; and at one time, says Mr. Eaton, three ambassadors from the rival Khans

came to Russia, to solicit assistance against his adversary. The stratagem of the late Russian empress in erecting a fort near Astrabad, and its demolition by the neighbouring Khan, is related by Mr. Foster. Many years before this event, he says, the Court of Petersburgh began to entertain jealousies of the English established in Persia: the Persians were partial to them, both to enrich their country by trade, and were desirous to be assisted in constructing armed vessels, that they might wrest from the Russians their usurped dominion over the Caspian Sea. Upon the lucrative fisheries and commerce of that inland sea, twenty thousand sailors are now maintained. A considerable commercial intercourse, both in exports and imports, is still maintained by the East India Company with Persia, which might be prodigiously increased to their mutual advantage, were that distracted people restored to order and tranquillity. United under one monarchy, Persia supported a doubtful conflict during five hundred years, with the mature strength of the Roman empire. By this incessant warfare, both nations became exhausted, and Persia fell an early prey to the first fanatic armies of Mahomet. Proselytes to the religious sect of Ali, the Persians entertain an implacable hatred against the Ottoman and other Mahometans of
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the sect of Omar; and the Asgans of Cabul are of this latter sect.

China. It is generally known that the late Russian empress employed, amongst many other scientific men, Captains Billings and Trevannion, two Englishmen, and pupils of the celebrated navigator Captain Cook, to survey all the eastern coasts, not only of Siberia, but also of Eastern Tartary, and even some parts of the opposite N. W. coast of N. America: they were particularly instructed to mark out proper ports for establishing dock-yards and admiralty courts upon both the northern sides of the Pacific Ocean; Ochoz and Kamshatka, on the dreary Siberian shores, being unserviceable for this purpose. The mouth of the great river Amour or Singalien, 500 miles to the south of Ochoz, was fixed upon by the commissioners of survey as the principal Asiatic naval port; and Prince William's Sound, in the N. W. coast of North America, as the principal North American port. A considerable army was to have been detached by a land-march of many thousand miles through Siberia to Kamshatka, and a squadron from the Baltic was under orders to sail to the Pacific, and to conduct this army to the two intended naval ports. This however was but the prelude to an infinitely more extensive project. The Russian empress and cabinet proposed to help themselves to a
very

very large slice of this new surveyed territory. The settlement grasped at by Russia included the whole of Eastern Tartary bordering on the Japan sea and Corean gulph, from the mouth of the great river Singalien north, to the extremity of Corea south, and from thence running into an angle within a hundred miles of Peking, the northern metropolis of China, and actually trespassing upon the summer recreations of the Chinese monarch. The area of this Eastern Tartary is very little inferior to that of all Hindoostan. I have seen a copy of the Russian survey and memorial on this subject. The possession and settlement of such a vast, and in many places fertile, territory, with the other collateral objects, the military incorporation of the Tartars into their service, might have encouraged the Cabinet of Petersburgh to a project so daring and difficult as the conquest of the resolute Japanese. In fact, the attempt to prepare means for such a stupendous plan, could not fail to excite alarm throughout all the nations of Asia, and even of America bordering on the Pacific Ocean. The Chinese government may, without any inconvenience, easily frustrate this plan at its outset; that is, to send a few millions of their crowded population to colonize all Eastern Tartary, and to exclude any Russian establishment.

Japan,

Japan, or Nipon.—Whoever reads Kempfer and Thunberg's history of this extraordinary Asiatic island, bordering upon the North of China, and fronting Eastern Tartary—of its wonderful population, its agriculture, its fisheries, its cabinet works, and skill in other arts, its political economy, its inhabitants from the king to the peasant clothed in silk, its rich mines, and even mountains of the purest gold, copper, and iron, &c. &c. must wonder that no British minister has yet attempted by a suitable embassy, to open a friendly intercourse with Japan. The Portuguese, a century and a half ago, were too severely chastised for their bigoted ingratitude and incendiary plots against the Japanese government, and have since been supplanted by the Dutch East India Company. The Russians from Ochoz and Kamshatka have long been encroaching on the Kurile, and other north islands of Japan. If Mr. Eaton's information is correct, they have lately, by the following accident, introduced themselves to this suspicious and haughty government. A Japanese vessel was wrecked on the Siberian coast; the crew were detained in Russia until they had learned the language, and were then returned home, accompanied with an embassy and presents to the Court at Jeddo. Mr. Eaton adds, that the Russians were, from this circum-

circumstance, admitted to the same commercial privileges as the Dutch. It is not as competitors with Dutch pedlars that the Russian Cabinet has solicited admission into Japan. Their official secret and ultimate objects are disclosed, and the jealous despotism of that peculiar government may flatter them with hopes of succeeding through the disaffection of the native feudal princes.

Mexico, and the North-west Coast of North America.—The Russian Cabinet has been long endeavouring to convert to their own exclusive advantage the discoveries of Captain Cook, and other British navigators, on the coasts of the Pacific, and to make progressive encroachments on the north-west coast of North America. They have not only been intent on establishing naval arsenals there, but likewise in making preparations for stealing upon, and seizing, the rich gold mines of Mexico and California. It is no secret that the richest mines of Mexico are gradually migrating northward towards California; that the Spaniards and native Americans are incessantly at war; and that the principal dock-yard, St. Blas, near the Gulph of California, has supplanted Acapulco, the naval port in the days of Anson. I am under some promise of secrecy, or I could be more explicit on this subject. From the cheap-

ness and abundance of labour and naval stores, from the deep, spacious harbours and inland bays, a naval power might be erected there; and some ships of many hundred tons burthen have been lately built for the Russian service. The beautiful furs and skins of both land and sea animals, especially the sea otter, abound on this coast; they are hunted and collected by the natives, and disposed of in barter, to the great emolument of the European purchaser, who finds a ready market for them in Asia and in Europe. Salmon and other excellent fish are in great plenty. Masts for the largest ships, and other timber, may be had in any quantity; and flax might be cultivated to advantage. The whole north-west coast of the Pacific, as far as Cape Horn, swarms with black and spermaceti whales, sea lions, and other fish, from which lamp-oil is extracted. Every useful information in this respect, both for scientific and commercial men, may be obtained from those celebrated navigators in the Pacific, Cook, Pérouse, Colnet, and Vancouver; and from the correct surveys and charts, both of the interior and of the coasts of South America, now engraving by Mr. Faden and Mr. Arrowsmith. A British squadron should be immediately detached to the Pacific, to expel the Russians from the north-west coast of North America; and it would be advisable, at the same

same time, to colonize the principal harbours with British, Irish, Americans, Germans, Dutch, Sandwich Islanders, &c.

I am now to take my final leave of Russia: and I can confidently assert, that in no part of the preceding sketch I have intentionally misrepresented the political morality of that Court and Cabinet. Had I been disposed, instead of plain facts, to deal in invective, I might have reprobated their appeals to the Supreme Being, for which, in masking all their designs, that Cabinet has long been notorious. Should the other Courts of Europe still continue to be lulled by them into security, I can only lament their infatuation, and that this distemper is so general and epidemic; and at a period when judgment and decisive activity are imperiously required.

FINIS.

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