

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON TO LORD CASTLELEAGH.

Paris, Sept. 25.

My Lord—There has been a good deal of discussion lately respecting the measures I have been authorized to adopt in order to obtain for the King of the Netherlands his Paintings and other things out of the Museum, and as these reports may reach the ears of the Prince Regent, I communicate to you the following account of the whole affair for his Royal Highness's information:—

Shortly after the arrival of the Sovereigns at Paris, the Minister of the King of the Netherlands demanded the Pictures, &c. &c. belonging to the Sovereigns, as did the Ministers of the other Sovereigns, and as I was informed could not obtain a satisfactory answer from the French Government. After several conversations with me upon the subject, he sent to your Lordship an official note, which was laid before the Ministers of the Allied Powers, assembled at a conference upon which the business was several times taken into consideration, in order to discover a means of doing justice to the claimant's of the objects of Art in the Museum, without hurting the feelings of the King of France.

In the mean time the Prussians had obtained from his Majesty, not only all the pictures belonging to his Prussia, but also those which belonged to a Prussian territory on the left bank of the Rhine, and all those that were the property of his Prussian Majesty; the affair now became urgent, and your Lordship wrote a note of the matter, in which the matter was fully treated.

The Minister of the King of the Netherlands had no satisfactory answer from the French Government, applied to me as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the King of the Netherlands, and asked whether I had any objection to employ his Majesty's troops to obtain possession of what was undoubtedly his Majesty's property. I laid this question also before the Ministers of the Allied Powers; and as no objection was found, I thought it my duty to take the necessary steps to obtain what was his right.

I spoke in consequence to Prince Talleyrand upon this subject, communicated to him what had passed at the conference, and the reasons I had for thinking that the King of the Netherlands had a right to the paintings, and requested him to lay the matter before the King, and to beg his Majesty to do me the favour to determine the manner in which I might obtain the objects of the King of the Netherlands in a way the least offensive to his Majesty.

Prince Talleyrand promised me an answer by the next evening; but as I did not receive it, I repaired to him in the night, had a second conference with him, in which he gave me to understand that the King would give no orders upon the subject, that I might do as I thought proper, and negotiate with Mr. Denon, the Director of the Museum.

In the morning I sent my Aid-de-Camp, Lieut-Colonel Freemantle, to Mr. Denon, who told him that he had no orders to give up any paintings out of the Gallery, and that he should suffice to be taken away but by force.

I then sent Colonel Freemantle to Prince Talleyrand to acquaint him with this answer, and to inform him that the troops would go the next morning at 12 o'clock, to take possession of the paintings belonging to the King of the Netherlands, and to declare that if any thing unpleasant should arise from this measure, the King's Ministers, and not I, were answerable for it. Colonel Freemantle likewise informed Mr. Denon of the measure that was to be taken.

It was, however, not necessary to send any troops, because a Prussian Guard constantly occupied the Gallery, and the pictures were taken away without any assistance being required from any of the troops under my command, except a few who assisted as labourers in the taking down and packing up.

It has been alleged, that by having been the instrument of carrying away from the Gallery the pictures of the King of the Netherlands, I had been guilty of a breach of a treaty which I had myself made; and as there is no mention made of the Museum in the Treaty of the 25th March, and as it seems now the Treaty spoken of is the Military Convention of Paris, it is necessary to show how this Convention is connected with the Museum.

It is not now necessary to discuss the question whether the Allies were or not at war with France; there is no doubt that their armies entered Paris under a Military Convention, concluded with an officer of the Government, the Prefect of the Department of the Seine, and an officer of the Army, who represented both Authorities at that moment present at Paris, and empowered by these authorities to negotiate and conclude for them.

The article of the Convention which is alleged to have been broken, is the 11th, which relates to the public property. I positively deny that this article has any reference whatever to the Gallery of Paintings.

The French Commissioners introduced in the original project, an article to provide for the security of this species of property; but Prince Blucher did not consent, saying, that there were in the Gallery paintings which had been taken from Prussia, and which Louis XVIII. had promised to restore; which, however, had never been done. I reported this circumstance to the French Commissioners, and they proposed to accept the article, with the exception of the Prussian pictures; and to this proposal I answered, that I was there as the representative of the other nations in Europe, and that I had no authority for other nations all that was conceded to the Prussians. I added, that I had no instructions concerning the Museum, nor any grounds to form an opinion how the Sovereigns would act; that they would certainly urge that the King should fulfil his obligations, and the restoring this affair to its former state entirely, and the restoring this affair to the decision of the Sovereigns when they should

Thus stands the affair of the Museum in reference to the Treaty. The Convention of Paris is silent upon it, and a negotiation took place, which left the business to the decision of the Sovereigns.

Supposing that the silence of the Treaty of Paris of May, 1814, respecting the Museum, had given the French Government an indisputable claim to the pieces contained in it, it cannot be denied that this claim was annihilated by this negotiation.

Those who negotiated for the French Government, judged that the victorious armies had a right to take the Works of Art from the Museum, and they, therefore, endeavoured to save them by introducing an article into the Military Convention.—This article was rejected, and the claim of the Allies greatly advanced by the negotiation on their side, and this was the reason that the article was rejected. Not only then was the possession of them not guaranteed by the Military Convention, but the above-mentioned negotiation tended the more to weaken the right of the French Government to the possession, which was founded on the silence of the Treaty of Paris of May, 1814.

The Allies having the contents of the Museum justly in their power, cannot do otherwise than restore them to those from whom they had been taken away, contrary to the usages of civilized warfare, during the dreadful period of the French Revolution, and the tyranny of Bonaparte.

The conduct of the Allies with respect to the Museum at the time of the Treaty of Paris, may be ascribed to their desire to conciliate the French army, and to confirm the reconciliation with Europe, to which the army seemed at that time to be disposed.

But the circumstances are now entirely different; the army disappointed the just expectations of the world, and embraced the first opportunity of rebelling against their Sovereign, and of serving the general enemy of humanity, with a view to the renewal of the frightful times that were passed, and of the scenes of pillage against which the world has made so many gigantic efforts.

This army having been defeated by the armies of Europe, it is dissolved by the united Council of the Sovereigns, and there can be no reason why the Powers of Europe should do wrong to their own subjects, in order to again conciliate this army; indeed, it never appeared to me to be necessary that the Allied Sovereigns should neglect this opportunity to do justice and favour to their own subjects, in order to please the French nation. The feelings of the French people upon this subject can be no other than national vanity.

They would desire to retain these works of art, not because Paris is the properest place for them to be preserved in (for all artists and connoisseurs who have written on the subject agree that they ought to be sent back to the places where they originally were), but because they have been acquired by conquests of which they are the trophies.

The same feeling that makes the people of France wish to keep the pictures and statues of other nations, must naturally make other nations, now that victory is on their side, to restore those articles to their lawful owners; and the Allied Sovereigns must feel a desire to promote this object.

It is besides to be wished, as well for the happiness of France as of the world, that if the French people are not already convinced that Europe is too strong for them, they may be made to feel, that however extensive for a time their temporary and partial advantages over one or more of the Powers of Europe may be, the day of retribution must at length come.

In my opinion, it would not only be unjust in the Sovereigns to gratify the French people, but the sacrifice they would make would be impolitic, as it would deprive them of the opportunity of giving the French a great moral lesson.

I am, my dear Lord, &c.  
"WELLINGTON."

CATHOLIC DOCUMENT.

ALLOCATION OF HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS VII. IN THE SECRET CONSISTORY, HELD THE 24TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1815.

In a former number, page 112, we took some notice of this document; which we now publish at greater length; not doubting that it will prove acceptable to a number of our readers, in a country so abounding with Catholics.

Rome, Sept 6, 1815.

Venerable Brothers.—You have perhaps been surprised that to this moment we have not imparted our joy to you; yet doubt not that it would have increased my satisfaction could you sooner have participated in it.

We would have wished to apprise you earlier of the restitution of our provinces, both that we might testify our gratitude to the sovereign dispenser of all good, and also to the glorious Monarchs from whom, next to God, we have received so great a kindness.

But now that the Convention relative to the restoration of our Provinces, in execution of the decree of Congress, is concluded with the minister of our dear Son in Jesus Christ, Francis II. Emperor of Austria, &c. and our jurisdiction completely established, we may give a free course to our joy, which we have with difficulty restrained, and following the custom of the Holy See, let us rejoice at our success in this business.

Cardinal Consalvi, who was sent to Paris, fulfilled the commission to his Most Christian Majesty with which we have charged him, and was received by the King with those demonstrations of interest and love for us which he had reason to expect from his high virtues and his piety; and then proceeded without delay to London, where the Allied Sovereigns, with the exception of our dear Son in Jesus Christ, Francis II. Emperor of Austria, were assembled.

How could we suppress the feelings of joy and gratitude with which we were filled, on learning how our envoy was received in the opulent capital of so mighty a kingdom! He there renewed what had not been

seen for two centuries, the spectacle of a Cardinal-Legate, and appeared publicly in London, with the permission of the Government, decorated with the distinguishing marks of his dignity, in the same manner as he would have done in the capital of the Christian world.

Our Legate was immediately admitted to an audience of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent; he delivered to him our brief, offered him our congratulations and our friendship as well for his Royal Highness as for the valiant English nation, which has covered itself with such glory.

The Cardinal was received at the Court of the Prince Regent with such marks of kindness and attachment to our person, that it was impossible to manifest more. And for this reason professing ourselves strongly attached to the Prince Regent, and to all the classes composing that generous nation, for which we already cherished the strongest inclination, we most cheerfully embrace this opportunity to give them a public testimony of our esteem, and of our warmest gratitude.

After delivering our brief to each of the Sovereigns, our Legate submitted to them the cause of the Apostolic See, and solicited urgently and severally the restitution of each of the provinces, of which the Holy See has been successively despoiled, in consequence of the revolution which commenced in 1789. He represented in an official note all the reasons upon which the incontestible rights of the Holy See are founded, and in our name implored the same Sovereigns to be pleased to take the Roman Church under their just protection. Such was the kindness of the Allied Princes—such are the proofs which they have given of their good dispositions towards us, that we have more and more reason to congratulate ourselves on our resolution, and to acknowledge in a more particular manner what good grounds we had to place so much hope on their authority and their kindness.

[His Holiness then notices the departure of the Legate for the Congress of Vienna, and his conduct there, the result of which was the restoration of the three Legations; and then proceeds:—]

"This glory is also shared by those Princes who do not belong to the Romish Church, and whom we have likewise found filled with good dispositions and kindness towards us. And whom ought we to name with greater honour than the most august Emperor of Russia, Alexander, a prince as illustrious for his military glory and his victories, as for the wisdom of his government? This august Monarch took cognizance of our claims with peculiar friendship, and supported our interests with all his power and authority. Could we pass over in silence the services rendered us by Frederick, King of Prussia, who has constantly shown himself disposed in our favour? We have the same obligations to Charles, King of Sweden, who has voluntarily concurred in, and so ardently wished for, the settlement of our affairs. But how can we abstain from anew expressing our gratitude to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent of England, who has been so earnest in our behalf, that the orders which he himself gave have been of great advantage to our interests in the congress of Vienna! We acknowledge that we are the more obliged to these Princes, because they had fewer motives for supporting and protecting the cause of the Apostolic See. We will not finally forget the Ministers Plenipotentiary by whom the important affairs of the Princes have been discussed at the Congress; their services have been marked in our behalf, and by seconding with their counsels and influence the excellent dispositions of their Sovereigns, they have greatly contributed to the happy issue of the business of the Church."

SITTING OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

October, 15.  
M. LANE, President.

The Sitting opened at half-past twelve. The President entered the Hall, preceded, according to custom, by the State Messengers and Ushers. He then pronounced the following Speech.

"GENTLEMEN.—The feeling which influences Frenchmen, that which absorbs your souls, makes even the pride of gratitude silent in me: it deprives me at least of the power of expressing what I owe to your honourable suffrages."

"Who in reality could, in the midst of the public misfortunes, entertain other thoughts, or form other wishes, than to mitigate the calamities which, during almost eight months, oppress France and her King?"

"A great hope is, however, offered for the attainment of this object. It arises from the unanimity of all hearts concurring in a firm and frank desire for the safety of the State."

"The solemn oath taken in this Hall by all the assembled Legislative Body, justifies the opinion that the differences on the great political questions are at length terminated, with the assistance of this Charter, which rallies so many opinions, and strengthens so many interests."

"Also, Gentlemen, whatever may be the evils by which our country is desolated, let us support the hopes that she forms on us, in giving the examples which the nation expects from its Representatives."

"Let us show that a common misfortune re-unites every mind, exalts the characters, and Frenchmen will quickly see that they know how to obtain over themselves victories so much the more honourable as they do not outrage humanity."

"Let us leave, Gentlemen—let us leave to God, who afflicts his people, to judge of Kings; but let us collect our entire strength, of which there is such necessity, to suppress passions and discord, to make France respected, and to protect the public liberty."

Some applause was beginning to be manifested, when the Ushers reminded them of the severe observance of the regulation.

Several voices—"Repeat the Speech."  
A MEMBER—"The distribution of six copies to each Deputy."  
The two propositions were adopted without opposition.

Municipal Appointments.—Mayor of Wigan, Robert Bolton, Esq. (second time); Bailiffs, Wm. Lyon and Henry Bullock, Esqs.—Mayor of Altrincham, John Maichell, Esq.—Of Macclesfield, Thos. Baden Esq. Justices, Henry Critchley and Nathaniel Higginbottom, Esqs. (Samuel Wood, Esq. the retiring Chief Magistrate gave an elegant entertainment on his secession from office).—Of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Henry Cramlington, Esq.—Of Hartlepool, Sir Cuthbert Sharp.—Of Walsall, John Wood, Esq.—Of Newark, William Fillingham, Esq.—Of Gloucester, the Duke of Norfolk.—Of Weymouth, James Bower, Esq.—Of Shaftsbury, John Rogers, Esq.—Of Devizes, Thomas Tyler, Esq.—Of Marlborough, John Halcomb, Esq. (A superb silver tureen was at the same time presented to Thos. Merriman Esq. the late Mayor).—Of Preston, E. R. Travers, Esq.; Bailiffs, J. Newsham and Wm. Taylor, Esqs.—Of Kendal, Thomas Harrison, Esq.—Of Appleby, Rev. James Satterthwaite, D. D.—Of Leeds, William York, Esq.—Boroughreeve, of Manchester, Wm. Johnson, Esq. Constables, Mr. W. Michell and Mr. Benjamin Heywood Bright; Mr. Joseph Naden was re-appointed Deputy Constable.

At the adjourned General Session of the Peace, held on Thursday last, at Preston, Dr. Campbell, of Lancaster, was elected the Physician; Mr. P. S. Knight, of Kennington, the Manager; and Mrs. Knight, the Matron, of the Lancashire Lunatic Asylum.

Enormous Tigress.—On the 17th May, the inhabitants of Chitragong, in the East Indies, were alarmed by an unwelcome visitor, whose movements, we regret to state, were accompanied with melancholy effects. This was a Tigress, discovered first amongst some cattle which were grazing at the mouth of the river. As soon as she was observed, the natives in the vicinity assembled with all speed, and advanced against her in defence of their cattle. Irritated by this attempt to deprive her of her prey, she sprung furiously on the person that approached nearest to her, and wounded him severely. The immediate attack, however, of the crowd was successful in rescuing the man from her grasp, although not until he had been lacerated so dreadfully that little hopes are entertained of his recovery. On this the Tigress finding herself hemmed in on all sides, and without any way of avoiding the multitude except by the river, immediately took to the water and swam with the flood tide about five miles, closely pursued by the natives in their boats, until she landed under a tree in Mr. Rae's dock-yard.—Here she laid herself down, apparently much fatigued, but, before the people in the yard could get their firearms ready, she had considerably recovered her strength. Several shots were fired at her, and two of them penetrated her body, one of which lamed her. Rendered desperate by this, she advanced against her new opponents, and singling out a Mr. Earle, an European gentleman, in the yard, who was provided with a cutlass, she sprung upon him before he could make use of his weapon, knocked him down with her fore-paw, seized his head in her mouth, bit off a considerable part of the skin off his forehead, and wounded him in several places. After this she sprung on a native, fractured his skull, and otherwise lacerated him so dreadfully, that the poor fellow died next day. She then entered a thicket or jungle close by, where she was allowed to remain unmolested. As this occurrence took place on a holiday, there were very few men in the yard, or else she might have been killed on the spot. Yet this may be perhaps regarded as a fortunate circumstance, as greater injury might have been otherwise sustained. On the morning of the following day, the 18th, she had got about a mile farther from the water-side, and near to the seaport's village. Here she was again surrounded by about a thousand natives, when, although she had been much lamed on the preceding day, she sprung furiously on several of them, and wounded one poor woman so dreadfully, as to occasion her death. A fortunate shot, however, laid her prostrate, and prevented further injury. On ascertaining her dimensions, she was found to measure eight feet from the nose to the tip of the tail, and to have stood about four feet high. Her fore foot, above the ankle, was thirteen inches in circumference. We are happy in finding it mentioned, that none of the wounds sustained by Mr. Earle are considered dangerous.

Swindling.—Two men have lately been swindling the public of Newcastle and Hull in the following manner: One of them assuming the name of Taylor, the other that of Woolley, opened a grocer's shop here under the firm of "Taylor & Co." After carrying on business about three months and contracting debts to a considerable amount, they shut up and removed to Hull, where they also fitted up a tea-shop, under the name of John Paul, and got into the debt of various tradesmen and others to a large extent. They kept this latter shop open only about three weeks, when they decamped with all the goods, furniture, &c. leaving near twenty tea chests filled with bay, earth, &c. and removed to Sheffield, where Paul assumed the name of Park, sold the goods to a broker, and then decamped. Peter Woolley, alias John Paul, alias J. Park, is remarkable for a large flesh mark over his right eye.—Tyne Mercury.

The Hon. Colonel Arbutnot, of Hutton, in Kincardineshire, who was among the first to lower the rents of his lands in England, has reduced that of Hutton 75l. per annum.—(Montrose Review).

There are two expeditions for exploring the interior of Africa now in preparation. One of these is intended to pursue the course of the Niger, and ascertain the progress and termination of that river, as far as can be effected by following the plans of Mr. Park; the other is to proceed to the mouth of the Congo, and explore the course of that river, according to the suggestion of Mr. Maxwell, the friend of Mr. Park.