

CONDITIONS.

TWO DOLLARS if paid in advance—TWO DOLLARS & FIFTY CENTS in six months, or THREE DOLLARS at the expiration of the year.

No paper will be discontinued until all arrearages have been paid.

Those who do not direct their papers to be discontinued at the end of the year will be considered as engaged for the next.

Subscribers at a distance whose papers are sent at our expense, will be charged 25 cents per annum in addition.

ADVERTISEMENTS, not exceeding a square, will be inserted for 50 Cents the first insertion, and 25 cents for each continuance. Those coming from the country must be accompanied by the CASH, or they will not be attended to.

FROM THE AURORA.

SPANISH TYRANNY AT CADIZ.

We are enabled at length to place, in an authentic form, before our readers, translations of the correspondence of the Spanish authorities at Cadiz, with Mr. Cathcart, the American consul, on the wanton seizure and imprisonment of *Richard Meade*, Esq. of Philadelphia. It may be useful to preface those papers with some general information, with which we have been long acquainted; as it will serve to illustrate the character of that Spanish government, which has found so many eulogists, and commemorators, and will no doubt find apologists even for this outrage, and the peculiar injustice which Mr. Meade has experienced at its hands.

Mr. Meade has been for several years a resident merchant in the city of Cadiz, on his private account, and an agent for many of the first mercantile houses in the United States, who traded to that part of Europe. The general distress of the Spanish government at different periods in the last ten years is well known, and it is a fact, that not only the city of Cadiz, when it was invested by the French, but the armies of Spain in Andalusia, after raising the siege, were indebted to the enterprise and to the credit which Mr. Meade gave the government for subsistence.

The Spanish government, destitute of funds, or any means or prospect of payment, found an ample and a constant resource in the confidence which Mr. Meade reposed in the honor and good faith of the Spaniards—and his advances in subsistence and other requisites were, at various times, in amount more than two millions of dollars. Occasional payments were made by bills on London, but the immense sums due to him never were wholly satisfied, and it is believed that the government of Spain still remains indebted to him a million of dollars.

Notwithstanding the importance of a merchant of such great resource and generosity, to a government so impoverished and resourceless, during the sitting of the cortes at Cadiz, he was seized and thrown into prison, for refusing to surrender his property and the property of others who had consigned to his care, without any security of payment. This was the act of the civil authorities of Cadiz. From them he appealed to the cortes, and the press free, he wrote and printed in the Spanish language a pamphlet, in a manly and spirited style, a copy of which he caused to be placed in the hands of every member of the cortes.

This bold and dignified course produced the respect of all the liberal and virtuous, and his release; but his stores were broken open and his property taken, whether he at that time obtained any considerable portion of the debt due him, we do not at present recollect, though we were well informed of the issue at the moment; but having lent the copy of the pamphlet which we had received at that time, it is out of our power to refer to it. But a vast debt remained unpaid, and remains so still.

The pretext upon which the outrage recently committed, is connected in some measure with the debt of the government. In the transaction of his mercantile affairs, he was enabled to obtain by negotiations and agency, a credit to a certain amount, perhaps one or two hundred thousand dollars on account of the Spanish treasury. Mr. Meade with the consent of the public authorities, employed this and a further credit to a considerable amount, in discharge of part of his debt, and closed the negotiation in which he was enabled to secure a sum on account of Spain in foreign countries. This affair was honorably adjusted at the Spanish treasury, and triplicate receipts given him for a sum paid into the treasury.—More than a year had expired, when by some intrigue, fostered by the necessities and the depravity of the new race of public agents who had come into power hungry, vindictive, and rapacious, it was intimated to him that he must refund; that he must deposit a sum of money in the Spanish treasury, equal to the amount for which he had al-

ready secured receipts in liquidation of part of the debt due to him.

Mr. Meade was at this moment acting as consul of the U. States. He urged that his funds if it were just, were not then in Spain, that they had been remitted in mercantile adventures to England and the United States; that as consul of the United States, he had no funds; and if he had, could not dispose of them but for the service of his country. He was informed that if he did not deposit that amount in a given time, in the treasury of the governor general of Andalusia, he should be imprisoned. If it were proper, compliance was out of his power; but he magnanimously declared, that possessed of the evidence of the government, that he had already paid the sum required, he should deem it a submission to unjustifiable outrage, if he had the money; and should not, if he did possess it, refund a sum paid to him, which had been but a very small part of the enormous debt which still remained due to him by the Spanish government; a debt contracted when Spain was in tribulation, and without means to subsist the immense body of troops which occupied Cadiz and the Isle of Leon.

He was immediately seized and conveyed to the castle of Santa Catalina, and there remained a prisoner on the 27th of May last. We shall now give the manly remonstrance of Mr. Cathcart, immediately on his arrival; and a translation of the Spanish answer, and the correspondence.

As this transaction affects the national character, we think it will be proper to narrate with some particularity the transaction as it occurred, prior to the statement of the written documents.

On the morning of the 2d of May, Mr. Meade being at his own residence in the city of Cadiz, about 8 o'clock the visit of some public officers was announced, and the auditor of war of Andalusia, with an adjutant of the governor, and a scrivener were introduced.

The auditor of war then informed Mr. Meade, that a royal order had been issued under the sign manuel in virtue of a secret consultation of the council of war, through the department of state, under the direction of Don Pedro Cevallos, and commanding the captain general of Andalusia, to execute it.

The tenor of the matter in implication was a sum of money, which he was required to pay into the royal treasury, or give satisfactory security for its payment to the tribunal of commerce, at Cadiz; that information had been given that Mr. Meade was about to depart from Cadiz; and that if he did not pay the money, or give the security required, their orders were to seize on and secure his person.

Mr. Meade, though he remonstrated against the nature of this proceeding, the unfounded pretences, and the false allegations as to his departure; after a first refusal on the score of justice, and aware that if confined, he could not so well and promptly manage the transaction, and on consultation of friends, proposed to give a security considerably more ample; such indeed as it was impossible to conceive could be refused, for among those who came forward and offered security several tendered a deposit of notes, in which the members of the city tribunal were among the signers.

Upon this security being laid before these magistrates (consuls as they are called) they changed ground and refused to accept any security but cash.

Mr. Meade then represented to the auditor that possessing bills and orders of his majesty (*libramientos*) on his different treasuries in the provinces for ten times the amount which was due to Mr. Meade from his majesty; or that he would give any security for his person to any amount, and he would add to this the security of the notes proposed; but that he was determined to undergo every personal suffering, rather than submit to augment the amount which the Spanish government was already indebted to him by making the deposit required of him, seeing that he could not obtain any sort of satisfaction, and saw no hopes of payment of the immense sums already due to him, as his majesty had in September preceding, issued a royal order, declaring all debts or obligations of the government, or contracts made, prior to December, 1814, should be considered as belonging to the public debt; which was expressly saying, that those debts would never be paid, as the evidences of the public debt of the government was at that moment selling at from 80 to 90 per cent. discount!

It was observed, that the royal order contained an exception of debts to foreigners, and that his debt was of that kind. To this Mr. Meade replied, that it was true this exception was made in the Gazette, but it was a deception,

since his own claims had been suspended, and in Seville where large sums were due to him for subsistence to the Spanish army, the royal order, and treasurer, had in writing declared that Mr. Meade's claims were included in the decree, and that he must apply to the directors of the public debt, though he had explicitly proved himself to be a native of the United States and had always maintained that character.

The auditors reply was that he had nothing to do with the justice or injustice of the case, that his duty was to execute the orders of the king his master, and that Mr. Meade must go to prison, or pay down the sum required into the royal treasury! He was accordingly conducted to the castle of St. Catalina.

The consulate was thus violated in a manner unprecedented—Mr. Meade, however, before he left his house, directed Mr. James Robinett to take charge of the seals and transact the business, which he did till Mr. Cathcart arrived in a short time after, and immediately presented the following:—

No. I.

Consulate of the United States.

James Leander Cathcart, Esq. Consul of the United States at Cadiz, to his excellency the Marquis de Castillodoros, captain general and commander in chief of the province of Andalusia and governor of Cadiz

CADIZ, May 14, 1816.

SIR—On my return to this city on the 11th inst. I learnt the most extraordinary information, that Mr. Richard Meade, a citizen of the United States, and pro-consul thereof, in my absence, should have been required by H. M. to pay a certain sum of money, or give such security as should be approved by the royal consulate of this city, for the eventual payment thereof, and in defect of both, to have his person secured—that the said consulate, not approving of the security of said Mr. Meade, your excellency had ordered him to be confined in the Castle of St. Catalina, where he continues to be held, under charge of a military guard. It is not possible for me, sir, to express my surprise at this outrage, after having seen by the most undeniable documents, presented to me by Mr. Meade, that H. C. M. had by his own royal sign manual, acknowledged the amount in question to be considered as deposited in the royal treasury, and that under date of 14th Aug. last year, a royal order to your excellency's predecessor was communicated in the following words, to wit:—“His majesty has been pleased to order by the royal decree under his own signature—that in the mean time, and until the necessary funds shall be forthcoming to realize this deposit. It is his majesty's desire, that the governor or sub-delegate of the royal revenue at Cadiz, shall suspend all further proceedings against Mr. Meade, and that the process be returned to the *Consufo*, to be there recorded and held in view for the execution of the final sentence—that may issue upon an appeal.”—

It seems incredible, that while this affair should be depending under an appeal before the supreme *Consejo* of the war, that such an order as that now complained of, should have been issued in virtue of secret proceedings held in the department of state, and that, without any decision having been had upon the subject in the *Consejo Supremo*, and that the pretext alleged by the person demanding the money, which produced this order, should be that Mr. Meade was about running away from this city; and that, therefore, it became necessary to secure his person. Your excellency must see what little foundation there can be for such an assertion; and even admitting it to be true, it must appear no less extraordinary, that a citizen of the United States should be arrested for a sum of money, which his majesty himself acknowledged to have in his possession. The case is certainly one of the most extraordinary that is to be found in the history of Europe; and I, in my official capacity as consul for the U. States of America, and acknowledged as such by H. C. M. being especially charged by my own government, to watch over and protect the citizens of my nation, beg leave to inform your excellency, in the most respectful manner, that I do most solemnly protest against the arrest and imprisonment of Mr. Richard Meade, a citizen of the said United States, who was, when so arrested, charged with, and discharging the duties of my consular office in this city;—and also, as being altogether contrary to the 7th and 20th articles of the treaty of commerce, existing between the United States and H. C. majesty. The aforesaid Mr. Richard Meade is actually confined in an apartment which has heretofore been used as a dungeon, with a centry constantly kept in view, and all this, merely because he would not submit to the payment of the money acknowledged by his majesty to be within his control: I cannot, there-

fore, do less than declare to your excellency, that as this act must be viewed by my government with marked dissatisfaction, I must be permitted to avail myself of my official character, in its fullest meaning and extent, to demand the liberation of Mr. Richard Meade; and in case your excellency should not consider yourself fully authorized to do so, in consequence of his arrest having taken place by a superior order, which I understand runs thus:—“That in case he should not pay or secure the amount, that his person was to be secured, I come forward and without hesitation, I pledge my public and private character to be responsible for Mr. Meade's person, that he may be permitted to return to his own dwelling house, praying at the same time, that your excellency will be pleased to grant him your passport, that he may with his family go to Madrid, and there represent the peculiar hardship of his case to his catholic majesty, and defend his rights under the auspices of the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of my nation; and in the event that your excellency shall not consider yourself sufficiently authorized to grant the necessary passport for Madrid; I request that he may be permitted under my responsibility, to remain in his own house, until he can receive an answer from court, as well as the expected information of the arrival of the minister plenipotentiary of the United States. I am also to solicit your excellency, that you may be pleased to order, that authenticated copies of the royal order, and of every proceeding consequent thereon, as well as of the official letter to the governor of the castle wherein Mr. Meade is confined, may be furnished me, as also of this letter which I declare to be my formal protest, and of the decree which your excellency may think proper to issue thereon, that I may forward the whole to Madrid by a courier extraordinary, for the information of the aforesaid minister plenipotentiary of the United States who is shortly expected there.

(Signed as usual.)

No. II.

Answer of the captain general of Andalusia, dated

CADIZ, May 16, 1816.

SIR—The imprisonment of Mr. Richard Meade took place in virtue of a decree of the royal and supreme council of war, with the advice and consent of his majesty; which ordered, that if the amount required was not immediately deposited in the treasury of the consulate or secured to the full satisfaction of that tribunal, his arrest should take place; and that he was not able to meet either, you appear to be fully informed about, as I observe by your official letter of the 14th inst. containing a course of reasoning altogether unnecessary, undertaking to prove that I should not have ordered Mr. Meade's imprisonment, as being contrary to treaties and the justice of his cause. &c. all which may be represented in a more decorous manner to the supreme authority, with whom the decree of his arrest originated, and not to me, who am a mere executive officer; nor can I conceive that I am called upon to furnish you with the official copies of the proceedings you require, the same having been already furnished to Mr. R. Meade, as the party most immediately concerned. This tribunal is very far from aggravating the case of Mr. M. but on the contrary, feel every disposition to grant him every facility in their power, consistent with the faithful execution of their orders, which forbid his being permitted to return to his own house, and much less granting a passport to proceed to Madrid; but if you will become responsible for Mr. Meade to the full extent, I will submit the same to the tribunal of the *consulado*, and if considered by them as satisfactory I will be able to decree accordingly as in justice may be right.

No. III.

James Leander Cathcart, Esq. Consul of the United States at Cadiz, to his excellency the captain general and governor of Cadiz, in reply to the foregoing.

Consulate of the United States.

CADIZ, May 17, 1816.

SIR—In reply to your excellency's letter of the 16th instant, concerning the imprisonment of Mr. R. Meade, a citizen of the United States, I must be permitted to represent to your excellency, that in addition to the instruction which I have from my government it has always been, and is my wish to treat the constituted authorities near which I reside, with that decorum and respect which are due; but your excellency must not be surprised that, as a representative of my nation, I must remonstrate, with that energy that is becoming the present, case when I see a citizen of the United States, and one of its most respectable characters, treated like a criminal, and held, to this time, confined in a dungeon, with a centinel in view, who will not permit

him to walk the distance of ten paces from the door of his prison. When such conduct is observed to a citizen of the nation I represent, I should be wanting in duty to my government and to myself, did not use my utmost endeavors to sustain the cause, and to obtain the official documents, from which I could ascertain, whether this individual has been guilty of a crime that would deserve such treatment; and particularly when I see, by original papers, that the case is altogether of a civil nature, and actually depending before a commercial tribunal. I cannot do less than to express to your excellency my surprise, at the course of proceedings had in regard to this gentleman, for no other reason than his refusing to pay the same amount a second time, which he had already deposited, under the orders of a competent tribunal, in the treasury of his majesty, as formally and solemnly acknowledged under the sign manual of his majesty himself, with his majesty's injunction that monies should be collected from other sources, for the express purpose of reimbursing the same in the royal treasury.

I have requested of your excellency to be furnished with the proceedings had in consequence of the last royal order, which commanded the arrest of Mr. Meade's person. Your excellency replies, that you are not obliged to furnish me with them because they had been furnished to Mr. M. As the representatives of my nation, I have to account to the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of my government as to any occurrence that may happen within the limits of my jurisdiction regarding the citizens of my nation, and in like manner, to the government of my country; and anxious of discharging my duty with that precision which an affair of so extraordinary and so much publicity demands involving no less than the liberty of an American citizen, and the rights of my country it becomes my indispensable duty to repeat my request, that your excellency will be pleased to order the notary having charge of this business, to furnish me with authenticated copies of the said royal order, and all other proceedings, such as they may be at this date, including the orders to the governor of the castle of Santa Catalina; where Mr. Meade is held a prisoner—the expenses of which I will pay.

I observe that your excellency cannot condescend to my request of permitting Mr. Meade to return to his own house, and much less to granting him a passport for Madrid; and you are pleased to add, that if I would become his security to the full extent of my responsibility, you would lay the same before the tribunal of the *consulado*, and if approved you would give the necessary orders. I have offered and I repeat my offer again to your excellency, that I am ready to pledge my responsibility in its fullest extent and meaning for the person of Mr. Meade being all that the royal order requires, making myself answerable, as well in my public as in my private capacity, that he shall not absent himself from this city before the termination of the affair in question.

No. IV.

Rejoinder of the captain general to Mr. Cathcart.

CADIZ, MAY 20th, 1816.

SIR—In consequence of your letter of the 17th inst. I have issued my order, and exemplification of which you will find herewith for your information:—CADIZ, MAY 20TH, 1816.

“His excellency the captain general of Andalusia; civil and military governor of this city, having seen and examined the proceedings, as well as the last official letter from the consul of the United States, relative to the case of Mr. Richard Meade, has been pleased to order and does hereby order, that a copy of the last paragraph of said official letter be laid before the tribunal of the *consulado* of this city, that under the full knowledge by the royal and supreme council of war, which directs that the security to be admitted from Mr. Richard Meade, shall be to their entire satisfaction: will please to signify whether they approve that now offered by the aforesaid consul, as well in his public as in his private capacity, and upon their answer being obtained, further order will be taken as respects the instructions given to the governor of the castle of Santa Catalina, as well as the propriety of furnishing the notarial copies of the proceedings so strongly insisted upon—meantime he will be handed a copy of this order, accompanied by an official letter, that he may be so far informed for his government.

Thus decreed and adopted with the knowledge and approbation of the auditor of war, and signed by his excellency the governor—LINARES and RODRIGUEZ PELAYO