

A PARTICULAR AND AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF BONAPARTE,

Previous to his Departure in the Northumberland, on the 7th of August, 1815.

With a Description of the Island of ST. HELENA, THE PLACE OF HIS FUTURE RESIDENCE.

THE Northumberland sailed from Portsmouth on Friday, and on nearing Torbay on Sunday, perceived two line of battle ships approaching her, which proved to be the Bellerophon, with Bonaparte on board; and the Tonnant with Lord Keith. The Northumberland hailed, and asked after Bonaparte, who, she was informed, had not come out of his cabin for some days. The ships came to an anchor off Torbay. General Bertrand went first on board the Tonnant, where he dined with Lord Keith and Sir George Cockburne. At dinner Sir George gave him a general explanation of his instructions with respect to Bonaparte; one of which was, that his baggage must be inspected before it was received on board the Northumberland. Bertrand expressed his opinion strongly against the measure of sending the Emperor (as he and all the suite style him) to St. Helena, when his wish and expectations were to live quietly in England under the protection of the English laws. Lord Keith and Sir George Cockburne did not enter into any discussion upon the subject. After dinner, Lord Keith and Sir George Cockburne, accompanied by Bertrand, went on board the Bellerophon. Previously to their arrival, Bonaparte's arms and pistols had been taken away from him—not without considerable altercation and objections on the part of the French officers. Those who were not to accompany him were sent on board the Eurotas frigate. They expressed great reluctance at the separation, particularly the Polish officers. Bonaparte took leave of them individually. A Colonel Pistowski, a Pole, was peculiarly desirous of accompanying him. He had received 17 wounds in the service of Bonaparte, and said he would serve in any capacity, however menial, if he could be allowed to go with him to St. Helena. The orders for sending off the Polish officers were peremptory, and he was removed to the Eurotas. Savary and Lallemand, however, were not among those sent on board the frigate—they were left in the Bellerophon. When Lord Keith and Sir George Cockburne went on board the Bellerophon, Bonaparte was upon deck to receive them, dressed in a green coat with red facings, two epaulets, white waistcoat and breeches, silk stockings, the star of the legion of honour, and a chapeau bras, with the three coloured cockade. His face is remarkably plump, and his head rather bald upon the top. After the usual salutations, Lord Keith, addressing himself to Bonaparte, acquainted him with his intended transfer from the Bellerophon to the Northumberland. Bonaparte immediately protested with great vehemence against this act of the British government: he did not expect it, he did not conceive that any possible objection could be made to his residing in England quietly for the rest of his life. One of Bonaparte's officers, the nephew of Josephine Beauharnois, his first wife, complained that faith had not been kept with the emperor, who expected to reside with his suite in Great Britain. Bonaparte asked Lord Keith's advice. His lordship merely replied, that he had to obey the orders he had received from his government. Bonaparte then desired another interview with his lordship. Lord Keith declined it, alledging that it could not but be unsatisfactory—he had no discretion—his fate could not be altered. An officer who stood near him, said—"You would have been taken if you had remained at Rochefort another hour, and sent off to Paris." Bonaparte turned his eyes upon the speaker, but did not answer a word. He next addressed himself to Sir G. Cockburne, and asked several questions about St Helena. "Is there any hunting or shooting there—Where am I to reside?" He then abruptly changed the subject, and burst into more invectives against the government, to which no answer was returned. He then expressed some indignation at being styled general—saying "You have sent ambassadors to me as a sovereign potentate—you have acknowledged me as first consul." He took a great deal of snuff whilst speaking. After reminding him that the Northumberland's barge would come for him at 10 on Monday morning, Lord Keith and Sir George Cockburne retired.

Early on Monday morning Sir George Cockburne went on board the Bellerophon to superintend the inspection of Bonaparte's baggage; it consisted of two services of plate, several articles in gold, a superb toilet of plate, books, beds, &c. They were all sent on board the Northumberland about 11 o'clock. At half past 11, Lord Keith, in the barge of the Tonnant, went on board the Bellerophon to receive Bonaparte, and those who were to accompany him. Bonaparte, before their arrival and afterwards, addressed himself to Capt. Maitland and the officers of the Bellerophon. After descending the ladder into the barge, he pulled off his hat to them again. Lord Keith received in the barge the following personages:—Bonaparte; Gen. Bertrand and Madame Bertrand, with their children; Count and Countess Montholon and child; Count Lascazas, Gen. Gorgaud; nine men and three women servants. Bonaparte's surgeon refused to accompany him; upon which the surgeon of the Bellerophon offered to supply his place.

About twelve, the Tonnant's barge reached the Northumberland. Bertrand stepped first upon deck; Bonaparte next, mounting the side of the ship with the activity of a seaman. The marines were drawn out and received him, but merely as a general, presenting arms to him. He pulled off his hat. As soon as he was upon deck, he said to Sir Geo. Cockburne—"Je suis a vos ordres." He bowed to Lord Lowther and Mr Lytton, who were near the admiral, and spoke to them a few words, to which they replied. To an officer he said, "In what corps do you serve?" The officer replied, "in the artillery." Bonaparte immediately rejoined—"I was originally in that service myself." After taking leave of the officers who had accompanied him from the Bellerophon, and embracing the nephew of Josephine, who was not going to St. Helena, he went into the after-cabin, where, besides his principal companions, were assembled Lord Keith, Sir G. Cockburne, Lord Lowther, the Hon. Mr Lytton, &c.

Bertrand asked what we should have done had we taken Bonaparte at sea? As we are doing now, was the reply. Lord Keith took leave in the afternoon of Bonaparte, and returned on board the Tonnant. Lord Lowther and the Honourable Mr Lytton now entered into very earnest conversation with him, which continued for two hours. As he was very communicative, and seemed desirous of a very free conversation with these two accomplished young noblemen, they availed themselves of the opportunity, and entered into a review of much of his conduct. We understand that they asked him how he came to commit the impolicy of attacking Spain—the motives for the Berlin and Milan decrees—the war against Russia—the refusal of the terms of peace offered him before the first capture of Paris, &c. To all those questions we hear he gave full answers, not avoiding but rather encouraging the discussion.

Bonaparte was asked his opinion of the British infantry. Bonaparte—"Long wars make good soldiers; the cavalry of both nations he said was excellent; our artillery had derived much improvement from the French." Of the Duke of Wellington he seemed to avoid giving any opinion. To a question about Louis the 18th. Bonaparte—"He is a good sort of man, too fond of the table and of pretty sayings. He is not calculated for the French.—The Dukes of Angouleme is the only man in the family. The French must have such a man as myself." One of his attendants, Bertrand, we believe, gave his opinion of the Emperor of Russia, that he was a good man; his heart better than his head; but that he did not think him a great man. Bonaparte, taking a pinch of snuff, and inclining his head almost into the face of the speaker, replied—*Ni moi non plus* (nor I neither.)

Of the Prince Regent he spoke in the highest terms, adding, that he was the only sovereign in Europe that had been consistent, constant, and vigorous; that it was he who had been the real cause of defeating all his designs and destroying his power.

At the expiration of two hours Lord Low-

ther and Mr Lytton took leave of him and went ashore.

His cabin in the Northumberland is fitted up with great elegance. His bed is peculiarly handsome, and the linen upon it very fine.—His toilet is of silver. Among other articles upon it is a magnificent snuff-box, upon which is embossed in gold an eagle with a crown, flying from Elba to the coast of France.

DESCRIPTION OF ST. HELENA.

The island of St. Helena is situated in that part of the southern Atlantic called the Æthiopic Ocean, about a thousand miles to the southward of the equinoctial line, and nearly at the same distance from the western shore of Africa. It was first discovered by the Portuguese in 1508, who falling in with it on the 21st of May, which is the feast of St. Helena, gave it that name. Its remote appearance is that of a blue mountain, ragged and depressed at the extremities, and rising very high towards the middle parts. From its great elevation, and the purity of the surrounding atmosphere, it is seen at the distance of 70 or 80 miles. On a nearer approach, the land appears more ragged and uneven, and seems only an irregular heap of broken rocks and hills, which, rising abrupt and perpendicular from the water's edge, spire up to a great height, and form, in several places, stupendous overhanging cliffs, divided from each other by very narrow valleys or deep irregular chasms. Nothing in nature can be imagined more barren and dismal than the aspect of those hills and their declivities, as viewed from the sea. They are black, rugged, and mouldering, without any tree, shrub, or trace of verdure; and the wild inhospitable appearance of the island, makes the remoteness and solitude of its situation appear still more forlorn and wretched.

The whole coast describes an irregular indented line, which from point to point measures 28 miles in circumference. The greatest length of the island is 10 miles and its greatest breadth between 6 and 7. The hills nearest the sea are from 8 to 12 and 1400 feet in height. Those inland rise much higher; and Diana's Peak, the most elevated part of the ridge, which runs from S. W. to N. E. is 2692 feet above the level of the ocean.

The island is accessible only at one particular spot, where the town is erected, in a valley, at the bottom of the bay, between two steep dreary mountains. The buildings, both public and private are plain but neat. The country, however, in the interior is far from being barren. Diana's Peak is covered with woods to the very top, and the little hills with rich verdure, interspersed with fertile vallies, which contain gardens, orchards, and various plantations.

The valleys are watered by rivulets; and the mountains, in the centre of the island, are covered with wood. The soil, which covers the rocks and mountains, is, in general, a rich mould, from six to ten inches deep, clothed with a variety of plants and shrubs. The walks of peach-trees are loaded with fruit, which have a peculiarly rich flavour; but the other European fruit trees and vines, which have been planted here, do not succeed. Cabbages, and other greens, thrive extremely well, but are devoured by the caterpillars; as are the barley, and other kinds of grain, by the rats, which are very numerous. The ground, for these reasons, is laid out chiefly in pastures, the verdure of which, is surprising; and the island can support 3000 head of their small cattle. They have English sheep here, and a small breed of horses, with goats and rabbits. Their fowls are ring-pheasants, red-legged partridges, rice-birds, pigeons, &c. of some of which the breed is indigenous, but others have been brought from Europe, Africa, and the East Indies.

The island is held by the British East India Company. The number of inhabitants does not exceed 2000, including near 500 soldiers, and about 600 slaves, who are supplied with all sorts of manufactures by the company's ships, in return for refreshments; many of the slaves are employed in catching fish, which are very plentiful.

