

AN
ACCOUNT
OF
THE CENTRAL
OR
SUPREME JUNTA
OF
Spain,
ITS CHIEF MEMBERS,
AND
MOST IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS.

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SUPREME JUNTA.

DURING the campaign in Spain, the attention of the public was so exclusively directed to the military events in that country, that they had scarcely leisure to attend to the political transactions of its government, much less to investigate the principles upon which it was formed, or to examine the tendency of the measures it adopted.

The Provincial Juntas, struck out at the heat of the moment, were sufficient to inflame

the enthusiasm of the people, and to produce the explosion to which the popular wishes had previously given the proper direction; but they soon became assemblies of intrigue, cabal, and corruption; and even where the embers of public spirit remained in them, they were not perceptible beyond the limits of their respective provinces. Disunion, if not civil war, was apprehended; and the necessity of some metropolitan government was generally felt, and early acknowledged. Nearly all Spaniards joined in the propriety of establishing some general government; though they differed as to the form it should assume, or the persons who should compose it, according to the tenor of their respective political principles, the bias of their professions, or the accidents of their local interests and affections. Military men were generally averse to Juntas and Assemblies, and would willingly have entrusted the whole government to a Regent. The gentlemen of the robe were all for leaving it in the hands of the Council of Castile. And the Provincial Juntas, reluctant

reluctant to part with their new-acquired authority, and still more with the patronage they had very generally assumed, and used very lavishly, were nevertheless inclined to acquiesce in any expedient rather than submit to the Council of Castile, from whom they could expect no favours, and whose conduct in the critical moments of the revolution, if susceptible of apology, was neither entitled to gratitude nor reward.

After a variety of intrigues and jealousies, and one instance of considerable violence,* the Deputies from the various Provincial Juntas met at Aranjuez on the 19th of September; and, with as much pomp as the occasion required, were invested with the authority of the Supreme Government of the Kingdom, under the title of *Central or Supreme Junta*. The tranquillity of their inauguration was, in a great measure, due to the forbearance and moderation of General Castanos; for it is univer-

* General Cuesta's imprisonment of VALDES, Deputy from Leon.