

month of your reign, apply to a Dutchman to give hints for you at Vienna. Is this spite or ingratitude? Is it frivolity, thoughtlessness? All I know is, that in such circumstances I have no tongue to speak with!

XCII

TO JEROME NAPOLEON, KING OF WESTPHALIA.

PARIS, *6th March* 1808.

I HAVE read the letter you are writing to Beugnot. I thought I had told you you might keep Beugnot and Siméon as long as you needed them; but the idea of making them swear allegiance is ridiculous. None but thoughtless Frenchmen, who had not concerned themselves about the result of such a step, can have taken the oath, and I pardon them, for I believe their heart was not in it. If the oath is one of fidelity to your person, that is included in the allegiance every Frenchman has sworn to me. If it is the oath of a Westphalian subject, you ask a thing which the meanest drummer in my army would not do. Besides, the Senators and Councillors of State who are employed at Naples have taken no oath. The Frenchmen employed in the King's household have sworn allegiance to him as a French Prince. And even if these reasons did not suffice, it is not when you are surrounded by foes and strangers, that you should insist that men, who may be useful to you, shall renounce their own country, and make themselves criminals. I have met few men with so little circumspection as you. You are perfectly ignorant, and you follow nothing but your own fancy. Reason decides nothing in your case, everything is ruled by impetuosity and passion. I do not desire to have any correspondence with you, beyond what is indispensable as regards Foreign Courts, because they make you dance steps, and expose your want of harmony before the eyes of Europe; which I am not inclined to permit you to do. As for your household and financial affairs, I have already told you, and now tell you again, that nothing you do accords with my opinion and experience, and that your mode of action will bring you little success. But you would oblige me by using less pomp and ostentation with respect to steps, the consequences of which you do not appreciate.

Nothing could be more ridiculous than the audience you gave the Jews. Nothing can be more mischievous than your attempt to ape the French *Moniteur*. I have undertaken to reform the Jews, but I have not endeavoured to draw more of them into my realm. Far from that, I have avoided doing anything which could show any esteem for the most despicable of mankind.

(*Postscript in the Emperor's own hand.*)—I love you, my dear fellow, but you are terribly young! Keep Siméon and Beugnot, without any oath, for another year at least. All in good time!

XCIII

TO GENERAL JUNOT, COMMANDING THE ARMY OF
OCCUPATION IN PORTUGAL.

PARIS, 7th March 1808.

(*The following paragraph was suppressed when this letter was published in the Correspondence, No. 13,627.*)

ONE of your divisions must hold (Spanish) Galicia in check. You will not fail to hint in the course of conversation (but without divulging anything), that my disagreement with Spain is caused by my not choosing to divide Portugal, one half of which Spain would like to give to the Prince of Peace, and the other to the Queen of Etruria.

If these reports so impress the Portuguese that you think you might make use of them, you could employ half at Elvas, and the other half at Almeida, to keep the Spanish part of Galicia in order. Your communication being cut, you must act according to circumstances, and whatever news you may receive.

XCIV

TO PRINCE MURAT, GRAND-DUC DE BERG, THE
EMPEROR'S LIEUTENANT IN SPAIN.

PARIS, 10th March 1808.

I HAVE your letter of the 7th, with General Duhesme's despatch. General Duhesme has nothing to fear, as he is master of the Citadel of Barcelona. You did wrong to order him to seize Figuera. You desire him to concentrate his