

Wednesday 20th Feb. As soon as the inhabitants heard that the
French had forced the passes of the Sierra, & observed no prepara-
tions making to resist them, they convened an assembly
which was fully attended & formed a Committee at the head
of which was Ystary & Gray Coche to take measures for
the defence of the place & watch the conduct of the Governor,
become suspected from his inactivity & supineness. They after-
ward planned the Junta of Cadix which was elected in the
most popular & free manner, the mode of the election was
this, every household gave in his vote for the person he
wished to be a member of the committee for electing the Junta,
40 who had the majority in this general election formed
this committee & proceeded to elect without discrimination
from their own number or the rest of the citizens 15 members
who had the proper qualifications for the situation.
This body from what I can understand is composed of men
of enlightened mind & warmest patriotic feelings, who have
their country's welfare to heart & are determined to resist
to the last moment, there is however the usual evil accom-
panying a double government jealousy & want of union
in measure & unanimity in sentiment; the Regency under
the name of brief authority resides in them as well for
the affairs of Cadix as for the remaining parts of Spain still
from subjugation, & claim the entire disposal of them. The
Junta of Cadix on the other hand think themselves best cal-
culated for preserving their own city as well acquainted with
its resources & having greater property at stake, hence there
an mutual animosity & suspicion & the constant result
want of energy & inefficient measures; on paper with
apart from the plan became proposed by the other, or wast-
ing time in studying it to their wishes, & both omit their
many essential duties, supposing it the province of the
other. & as they however are both anxious to obtain
the sounds of war & consider the money most securely
& properly placed in their hands.