

poor Labourers, Artificers or Manufacturers; accordingly last Sunday public Notice was given in all the Parish Churches of this City, that such Maidens who were inclined to marry, should within three Weeks give in their Names to the Priest of their Parish; afterwards Lists are to be made out, and Sums lodged in the Hands of each Priest according to the Number of Candidates in his Parish. The Marriages of each Parish are, as far as possible, to be solemniz'd on the same Day, before the Provost of the Merchants and Sheriffs, or their Representatives.

Silver Medals also are preparing with the King's Bust on one Side, and on the other a Representation of the Birth of the Duke of Burgundy; which are to be given to these Pairs as Espousal Pieces.

The Life Guards, in the Flush of their Joy, asked and obtained his Majesty's Leave to give a Ball in their Guard Chamber in Versailles; it was honour'd with the Presence of the Royal Family, and conducted with great Politeness.

This Royal Birth filled the Town of Versailles with a Kind of Enthusiasm; for a whole Week nothing was to be heard thereabouts but Drums, Trumpets, Violins, and Hautboys, mixed with the Shouts of the several trading and working Companies, incessantly paying their Compliments to the King and the Royal Family.

Paris, Oct. 8. During the few Days the King was at Crecy, from whence he returns this Day to Versailles, there were seventeen Girls married, to whom the Marchioness de Pompadour gave Portions.

And we are credibly informed, our General Farmers are to sing a Te Deum, and to advance a considerable Sum of Money towards the Portion of several young Maidens upon their Day of Marriage on Account of the happy Birth of the Duke of Burgundy.

It is computed, that above 20,000 poor Maidens will get Husbands by these generous Donations.

Hanover, Sept. 25. Great Damage has been done in several Places of this Electorate, by the overflowing of the Weser and the Elbe. The Waters of this last River particularly, have done considerable Damage to the Fortifications of Staden, and to divers Magazines there, where the greatest Part of the Ammunition and Provisions have been entirely spoiled.

Amsterdam, Sept. 28. Many are the Conjectures about the precipitate Departure of the Ambassador from France for Paris. Some say, that the Cause of it was the Resolution which the States of Holland have at length taken to accede to the Treaty of Alliance between the Courts of Vienna and Petersburg, and London, and that he has been sent for to know how, and by what Canal, that Affair, which the French Ministry believe would never pass, has succeeded, so much to the Good Liking of the Court of Great Britain, in order to give fresh Instructions upon this Subject, and this seems to be the most probable Conjecture. This Resolution has been carried to the Generality, where the other Provinces have already shewn their Approbation of it, by giving their affirmative Voice for it, wherefore that Affair is looked upon as concluded; which cannot give Pleasure either to France, Prussia, the Elector of Cologne, or to those Princes of the Empire which are entered, as this last, into the late Views of the King of Prussia.

Hague, Sept. 20. The Party who oppose the present Government, are caballing and using every Artifice to render unsuccessful every Proposition made on the Part of the Prince Stadtholder, and to push that for the Reduction of the Troops of the Province of Holland, out of every Company of which they would have eight Men broke. If this Project takes Effect, the States of the other Provinces will undoubtedly expect to be eased in the same Manner; and in such Case the Troops of the Republic will, indeed, be reduced, and consequently, the Authority of the Stadtholder diminished: For if the Republic should be obliged, by the Measures it shall take with the Court of Vienna, to have in the Barrier Towns the Number of Troops stipulated by Treaty, together with the necessary Garrisons in the Frontier Places, especially those on the Side of the Dominions of the King of Prussia, who is not looked upon as our best Friend, it would leave but very few remaining in the Country, particularly this Province, where the People of certain Cities are kept in Awe and Obedience, by nothing so much as the Fear of receiving Garrisons into some, and augmenting them in others. In this Manner the Party of the Oligarchy attains gradually to its End of bringing to nothing the Authority of the Stadtholder, and lessening as much as possible, the Credit of the State, which would not have held under King William III. the distinguish'd Rank it did, had it not been for its Forces by Land and Sea. As to the latter, there

is no Occasion to take Pains to reduce them, seeing they scarcely subsist at all. It would really almost cost the Republic as much to obtain a Resolution of building 25 Men of War, as the Construction of them itself. It is now more than 3 Years that the Deputies of the Admiralty have met upon this Occasion, without having yet resolved upon any Thing, the contrary Party always overturning Tomorrow, what is concluded on this Day; and these Assemblies cost the State considerable Sums.

A Letter from the Hague, October 3.

Deputies from all the Admiralty Colleges in this Province are expected here, in order to confer with the States General about the Reduction of Duties on Imports and Exports, proposed in the Plan, presented by the Stadtholder for reviving the Commerce of this Republic. As soon as his Serene Highness returns to this Place, they will likewise consult about the Execution of such Measures as may answer this End, and labour therein with all the Zeal and Ardour requisite, without suffering themselves to be diverted therefrom by trifling Considerations, arising from Prejudices, Fondness for old Customs, or imaginary Fears of our Neighbours taking Umbrage at our Proceedings. Such Nations as have got Part of the Republic's Commerce from her, thought themselves warranted by the Law of Nature to improve the Opportunities that offered for so doing: And the same Law now authorizes the Republic to strive to bring back this Trade into its old Channels, by using all the Means consistent with Treaties and Friendship with other Powers. This the Plan in Question takes Notice of, insisting at the same Time on a Reduction of Duties on Exports and Imports, as the best Means to restore such Branches of Trade as are declining, or have been turned into other Channels. A Comparison between the last and present Century makes this very obvious, if we consider on what Footing the Republic's Trade was formerly with Spain, Portugal, Italy, and France, who received through the Hands of the Dutch, the Products and Manufactures of the North and Baltic; whereas those Nations now go to fetch them with their own Vessels, or have them brought to them by the Hanse Towns. As to the properest Methods to be put in Practice, relative to these Considerations, it appears that the establishing of a Free Port is judged the most practicable Expedient; that is to say, a limited Free Port, which excludes only prohibited Goods, and such Commodities whose Exportation might be prejudicial to the State. The Plan in Question points out the different Kinds whose Importation is prohibited, as also the Nature and Qualities of them that are not allowed to be exported; the Prohibition of the former being grounded on their interfering with the Manufactures of the Country, and the Interdiction of the latter being regulated and proportioned according to the Demand there is for them at Home, &c.

Paris, Sept. 20. As to the Conferences held here, for settling the Limits in America, between this Nation and England, no great Progress seems to have been made in the Affair: Mr. Mildmay, one of the British Commissioners is lately gone over to London, to attend his own private Affairs for some Time, as some say; however it be, 'tis expected he will return with new Instructions, the old ones not being found sufficient to answer all the Objections and Cavils of our Statesmen. And what Instructions will, except be carried over a Blank Sheet of Paper, for their Statesmen to set down their own Terms?

Cadix, August 30. The Merchants of this City complain very much of the Decay of their Commerce to the West-Indies, which they say, arises from most of the Register Ships which are sent into that Part of the World; being freighted by some of the most considerable French Merchants, who are very rich, and in a Condition of running all Risques, and who only employ Commissioners of their own Nation, and, perhaps, some few others, on whom they may safely depend. They further allege, that as the greatest Part of the Merchandise which are put on board these Ships, only pass through their Hands, the other Commissioners have almost nothing to do: These last are therefore very desirous that the Court would again begin to send, as in Times past, the Galleons, and the Flotilla into these Countries. Every Body, and particularly the Spaniards themselves, they say, would then have a Share in the Profits of this Trade; and the Monopoly which is at present carried on, would cease. Strong Representations have been made upon this Subject to the Court of Madrid, but no Answer has yet been made to them; and there is but little Likelihood that any Alterations will soon be made in this Respect, because it is evident, that the Court finds its Account better, by sending from Time to Time Register Ships, which return sooner,

and consequently cause Money to come more frequently into the Coffers of the King, than by the Galleons and Flotilla. One may easily judge of the great Advantages which the French draw from this Trade, and the Quantity of Silver which it causes to go into that Kingdom, since it is asserted, that this Nation is more than Half interested therein.

Marseilles, Sept. 16. By a Ship lately arrived here from Saffia, we have Advice, that as soon as the foreign Merchants establish'd there were informed of the Cession which was made of that Place to the King of Denmark, they presented a Memorial to the Emperor of Morocco, requesting that Prince to oblige the Danes to take off all the Goods that lay upon their Hands (but nothing of this being mentioned in the Act of Cession, it cannot well be expected that the Subjects of his Danish Majesty should encumber themselves with Goods which do not suit their Conveniency, and may possibly be inconsistent with the Trade which is intended to be established there) that this Difficulty, joined to the Inconveniency of removing their Effects, which cannot be done without great Loss, had engaged most of those foreign Merchants to endeavour to get themselves naturaliz'd as Danes, in order to partake of the Advantages of the Cession; and that the rest of them propose to establish themselves at Sallee.

Hague, Sept. 29. The Prince Stadtholder, before he set out for Aix la Chapelle, delivered to the States General, and the States of Holland and West Friesland, some Proposals for improving the Trade of the United Provinces; in the Preamble of which, among other Things, it is said,

"That his Serene Highness, ever since his Advancement to the Stadtholdership, having had nothing more at Heart than to restore the Republic to the flourishing Situation it was formerly in, thought nothing could contribute so much towards it as the Improvement of Trade, as being one of the fundamental Supports of the State; and that, in Conformity thereto, he had spared no Pains to inform himself, from the most experienced Merchants and Traders, of the present Situation of our Trade, and of the most suitable Methods to restore it."

"That his Serene Highness had the Satisfaction to lay before their High Mightinesses a Plan which was delivered to him, relating to the Trade of those Provinces, containing Reflections equally well adapted to the present State of Trade, and to the Means of retrieving it: That, among other Things, he finds in this Plan a Proposal for establishing a Free Port, and considerably lessening all Duties, which he looks upon as the only Means to make Trade revive, and enable the Merchants to draw it more and more into this Country."

"That his Serene Highness having found this Plan so advantageous to the Trade of the Republic, so necessary for the Support of the State, and so well calculated for the present Situation of Affairs, could not avoid recommending it to their High Mightinesses, begging them to consider of it as soon as possible, and with all the Attention due to a Matter of such Importance, and to the Necessity of preventing a farther Decay of Trade, &c."

The States General after deliberating upon these Proposals, resolved to return Thanks to the Prince Stadtholder for his Attention to the Good of the State, and of the trading Subjects of these Provinces, as well as for his indefatigable Zeal and Application in searching out the Causes of the Decay of Trade, and the Means of restoring it to a flourishing Situation. Their High Mightinesses have also thought proper to send Copies of the said Proposals, with the Plan annexed, to the respective Colleges of the Admiralty for them to consider of, and draw up such Articles as they shall think conducive to the Amendment of Trade, in order hereafter to take such Measures as may answer the salutary Views of his Serene Highness. The States of Holland and West Friesland, have also come to the same Resolution.

The Plan abovementioned, after representing the present Situation of Trade, and the Reason of its Decay, proposes, as the Means of restoring it, to have all Sorts of Goods exempted from paying Toll throughout the Territories of the Republic, to establish a general or limited free Port, and to distinguish, by a general Tariff, the several Commodities which shall be liable to pay Duty, those which shall be exempted from it, and those which shall be prohibited.

L O N D O N. August 24. Thomas Colley, for the Murder of Ruth Osborne (the supposed Witch at Tiring in Hertfordshire), was executed at Gablet Cross, and afterwards hang'd in Chains on the same Gallows, near 30 Miles from the Place of his Confinement; the People about Marston Moor having petitioned against hanging him near their Houses. The Day before his Execution he received the Sacrament, and signed a solemn Declaration of his Faith relating

ing to Witchcraft, which by the Minister of Tiring before he was turn'd out of Hertford Goal by the Sheriff a Guard of 108 Men, belonging to the Regiments of Foot Guards, the Procession was slow, and at Night he was lodged at the next Morning at the Chair of the Execution about the greatest Part of the great, that they would be present at the many Thousands stood grumbling and muttering to hang a Man for death, who had done Witchcraft. As he passed the Prisoner's Wife and to speak to him, a Pistol of one of the Troop Corps in some Confrontation be fired from a Window happened. He behaved

The DECLARATION of Good People!

I beseech you all to take notice of the suffering of the said Ruth Osborne, who are any such things upon

It was that foolish and stin'd and inflamed by the prompted me to be instructed brain'd as myself in the der of Ruth Osborne, that I am now so deservedly

I am fully convinced with the Sincerity of a do not believe there is Witch; and pray God that you have a Right much less endanger the L

I beg of you all to pray to wash clean my polluted Christ, my Saviour and

So exhorteth you

Sept. 18. The Sentence of Death; viz

John Jebb, Cornelius ter, for stealing a Sheep; Robert Steel, for the Anne Berry, for robbing William Newman, a

bing James Daniel of a Pair of Shoes, and 1

David Brown, for robbing in Houndditch; Edward Bland, for robbing a Guinea, near Acton; Samuel Eager, and James Holt, an outlawed

John Carbold, and E

gling; Benjamin Smith, for robbing John Ireland, for robbing Bridget Shepherd, for robbing in a Dwelling House; and John Robertson, for robbing

It is remarkable, that was condemned some T

bery, was brought to the City's Pardon, in order

Years, he would not please Majesty's Clemency was

it, saying he had rather than his Friends, who

his Sentence changed, so only be a Burthen to Court, tho' he behaved

have had him to accept but on his still refusing, Newgate 'til the next

going out of Court, he same Mind if brought to

Sept. 20. We have the Evangelic Body hat

to the Emperor, compl of the Roman Catholics beseeching his Imperial Authority in such a

pits no Hopes of seeing any more at V