

chantmen, which, against the Laws, and against all Decorum and Decency, have been taken by the English Navy, and of all the Officers, Soldiers, Sailors, Artillery, Ammunition, Merchandize, and every Thing in general, that belonged to those Ships.

The King will always like better to be beholden to the King of England's Equity, than to any other Means, for the Satisfaction he has a Right to claim, and all Potentates will doubtless perceive in the Step he has determined to take, a fresh Proof of that constant Love for Peace, which directs his Councils and Resolutions.

If his Britannic Majesty Orders the Restitution of the Ships in Question, the King will be disposed to enter into a Negotiation about the other Satisfaction that are lawfully due to him, and will continue to lend an Hand, as he has formerly done, to an equitable and solid Accommodation of the Disputes concerning America.

But if, contrary to all Hopes, the King of England refuses the Requisition which the King makes him, his Majesty will look on his Denial of Justice, as the most authentic Declaration of War, and as a Design to disturb the Repose of Europe.

Mr. Fox's Answer to M. ROUILLE.

Whitehall, 13th of Jan. 1756.

S I R,

I Received, the 3d Instant, the Letter which your Excellency has honoured me with, dated the 21st ultimo, with the Memorial annexed to it. I left no Time in laying them before the King my Master, and 'tis his Orders, that I have the Honour to inform your Excellency, that his Majesty still wishes for the Preservation of the public Tranquillity; but tho' the King will readily listen to an equitable and solid Accommodation, his Majesty cannot grant the Demand made of the speedy and full Restitution of all the French Ships, and of every Thing belonging thereto, as a Preliminary Condition of any Kind of Negotiation; the King having done nothing in all his Proceedings, but what the Hostilities commenced by France, in Time of full Peace (of which he hath the most authentic Proofs) and what his Majesty owes to his Honour, the Defence of his Rights, and Possessions of his Crown, and the Safety of his Kingdoms, have rendered just and indispensable. I have the Honour to be, &c.

L O N D O N.

January 5. The Empress Queen has sent 300,000 Florins to Lisbon. The new 20 Gun Ships are ordered to be got ready with the utmost Expedition.

January 6. Warrants are issued for impressing Landmen.

January 8. A great Number of Carpenters are sent down to Plymouth to hasten the fitting out the Ships there.

January 18. Letters by the Lisbon Mail, dated the 21st ult. advise, that great Disputes have arose between the King, his Subjects, and the foreign Merchants, about rebuilding that City; his Majesty being inclined to have it rebuilt where the Ruins now are, and the others in general at Belem; upon which Occasion there is great Confusion. It is added, that the Soldiers have mutinied, and joined the Mob.

January 20. By the Mercury arrived from Fyal, one of the Western Islands, we are assured that no Disaster has happened to any of those Islands by the late terrible Earthquakes.

January 23. We are assured that Commissioners are appointed for selling the French Prizes.

January 24. It is reported that a Viceroy will be sent to America.

We are assured that the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Rothes, Lieutenant General, and the Earl of Loudon, Major General, are appointed to command in America, for which they are to embark in the Spring, with several Gentlemen of the Army, who are to Officer a Regiment of three Battalions, which is to be raised there.

January 27. We hear that a Battalion of the Royal Scots, General Otway's Regiment, and the Regiment of Highlanders, are to embark from Ireland for North America.

Admiral Boscawen is gone to Portsmouth to hoist his Flag on board the Invincible Man of War, of which Capt. Colby is appointed Captain.

It is said that the Right Hon. Lord John Murray and his Regiment are to go with the other Forces to America.

Vessels are hiring by the Government for Transporting Troops to America.

We are assured that Col. Abercrombie will be made a Major General, and that he is to act in Conjunction with the Earl of Loudon.

Copy of a Letter from a Trinitarian Fryar at Seville, dated November 4.

"The first Instant, being all Saints Day, about Ten in the Morning, began a most terrible Earthquake, which lasted very violently for the Space of 7 Minutes: Every one deserted their Houses, and the Fryars their Convents; the Priests who were saying Mass, and the whole Audience, left the Churches, and ran about the Streets publicly confessing their Sins, and asking Forgiveness of the Almighty. At the same Time the Roofs of the Houses, the Steeples of the lofty Towers of the Churches, fell down. The beautiful Cathedral is spoiled, the Cannons are obliged to celebrate their Offices in the India House, its magnificent Tower, which exceeded any Thing of the Sort in Europe, is so much damaged that they can't ring the Bells; the Pyramids are fallen, and it is imagined the Whole must be pulled down. Not a single Church or Convent has escaped free of some Damage or other, and, in short, what few Houses are left standing must be immediately repaired; those which are ordered to be pulled down are without Number. The Borough of Triana, which is about half of this City, is mostly destroyed; the Villages called St. Juan, Dalsarache, Dilbes, Brines, Camas, and many others in the Neighbourhood, are quite demolished: In Guabar, where the Curate was saying Mass, he and the whole Congregation was killed by the Church falling upon them. In this City, notwithstanding the Damage which was done, not more than four Persons lost their Lives, though many have been hurt. On Sunday and Monday we felt five or six Shocks more, but they were not violent. Every Body here looks disconsolate, and with cast down Eyes think of nothing but repeating their Confessions and reconciling them with God. As soon as ever the first Fright was over there was a Proclamation issued out, that no Coach, Chaise, or Cart, should stir about the Streets, upon Pain of the Master's paying 500 Ducats, and being imprisoned six Months, for fear that the least Motion should bring the tottering Buildings to the Ground. The Damage already done is computed at a Million of Dollars. An Edict has been published, that upon Pain of mortal Sin, every Body should keep Fast every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, and the Eve of the Anniversary of this Calamity to be observed a Fast forever. An hundred Years is not a sufficient Time to repair the Damage done: The Grand Gate of Cannona, and many others are thrown down: The King's new Buildings are suspended, and the Materials are ordered to be delivered for repairing the City, as that is the first Concern. Our greatest Fear now is, lest Rains should fall and the River overflow its Banks, to put the last Stroke to Seville. Many Families, and among them some of Distinction, are left without Houses to live in, and have taken Refuge in the Gardens and Ovens, and wherever else they could creep. The City of Arocs is almost totally demolished, and it seems as if they should never hear the last of the Misfortunes occasioned by this Disaster.

The Magistrates are going about the City to order what Houses shall be pulled down, and to mark out the different Parishes. All the Way from Portugal to this Place the Towns, Cities, and Villages have been almost totally destroyed; and the same shocking Account came from the inland Places. We felt another Shock this Day pretty violent, which lasted near a Minute. The Sea broke into Agamonte, and drowned about two thousand Persons. We have not yet heard what Damage was done at Huelva, where the Sea likewise rushed in."

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman at Gibraltar, dated November 20.

At Tangier the Water rose 50 Feet perpendicular, and had almost lost its brackish Taste. The Fountains slept for some Time, and soon after gush'd out with great Violence with Water the Colour of Blood. Mequinez, in Barbary, has suffered much, many People being killed; near it two large Mountains opened, from one of which issued a prodigious Quantity of Water, the Colour too of Blood, which form'd a River, and many Days after was flowing with great Rapidity. Two Days ago, Capt. Willet, in the Augusta, arrived here from Newfoundland, and last Sunday, off Lisbon, he saw a great Quantity of Household Furniture, dead Bodies, Legs, Arms, &c. floating, the dire Effects of the Earthquake. Last Week Capt. Maplesden brought in here a very rich Martinico Ship.

I forgot to tell you our Fountain in the Parade slept for three or four Minutes, and afterwards the Water issued out with great Force: And a large Piece of

Rock, Forty Feet long, separated from the Hill, and fell down near Catalan Bay.

February 3. We hear that the Commissioners of the Navy will this Day contract for the Transporting of 9000 Hessians from Holland into England.

We are assured that by the late Treaty the King, as Elector of Hanover, renounces, in favour of his Prussian Majesty, all Claim to East Friesland.

Yesterday came a Confirmation of the News that all the English Vessels in the Ports of France are stoop.

At a Council held at St. James's Yesterday se'nnight it was resolved to issue a Proclamation (which is accordingly published in the London Gazette) setting forth, that the King being resolved by the Assistance and Blessing of God, not to be wanting in his Care for the Defence of this Kingdom, in case of any hostile Attempt to land upon the Coast thereof, hath thought fit strictly to charge and command all Officers and Ministers, Civil and Military, within their respective Counties, &c. that they cause the Coasts to be carefully watched, and, upon the first Appearance of any such hostile Attempt, immediately cause all Horses, Oxen and Cattle, which may be fit for Draught or Burthen, and not employed in his Majesty's Service, or in the Defence of the Country, and also (so far as may be practicable) all other Cattle, and Provisions, to be driven and removed Twenty Miles at least from the Place where such Attempt shall be made, and to secure the same, so that they may not fall into the Hands or Power of those who shall make such Attempt. Wherein nevertheless it is his Royal Will and Pleasure, that the respective Owners thereof may suffer as little Damage, Loss, or Inconvenience, as may be consistent with the Public Safety.

Feb. 5. Letters by Yesterday's French Mail advise, that the Embargo was taken of the neutral Ships in the Ports of France on the first Instant.

Eleven French Vessels, four of which are said to be from Alexandria, are taken by the Phoenix Man of War, the Hon. Capt. Harvey, and sent to Port-Mahon.

A great Train of Artillery, with its Appurtenances, is ordered for Ireland, whither also it is said the Hessian Troops, when they arrive, are to take up their Quarters.

Feb. 7. Thursday, at Two o'Clock, the Subscription to the new Loan of Two Millions, for the Service of the current Year, closed at the Bank, being quite full.

Feb. 10. They write from Paris, that the Court still affects great Moderation, and pretend to have great Hopes that a Negotiation may still be set on Foot, under the Mediation of certain Powers; but that notwithstanding this, the People in general look upon a War as inevitable; the rather, because of the immense Expence the Crown has been at in respect to the Marine, and the Contracts made with the Merchants for fitting out Privateers, which are to bear Interest from the first of March.

The Master of a Ship gone up into Hammoaze reports, that he saw the Monmouth in particular and some other of our Ships in Sight of the French Fleet and giving them Chace.

It is believed that a Proclamation will soon be published, commanding such Subjects of the French King as are resident here to depart these Kingdoms within a Time limited.

Six Thousand Swifs are order'd into the Pay of Great-Britain, which, with the Highland, Gen. Otway's and another Regiment upon the English Establishment, together with part of the Royal Scotch Regiment, are speedily to embark for America.

It is said that one of Admiral Smith's Sloop return'd from a Cruize, reports that our Fleet and that of the French, when he left them, were within three Leagues of each other; if so, we may shortly expect to hear of a Brush.

February 12. Seven Men of War are ordered for Holland to convoy from thence the Foreign Troops intended for England.

It is confidently reported, that four Men of War are sailed from Rochelle, with a great Number of Troops on board, supposed to be gone for North-America.

They write from Paris, that the Conduct of the King of Prussia has made a very extraordinary Impression upon that Court, that several Councils have been held, and that a Resolution has been taken to change the Ministers employed at the several Courts in Germany.

Feb. 13. A Letter received Yesterday from Dunkirk advises, that some French Sailors in an open Boat boarded an English Vessel, took her, and carried her into that Port.

Tents and all Things necessary to be got ready for an Expedition.

Some Ships laden with wine are ordered down the River, in order to be sent to New-England.

February 14. A Fleet is ordered to Spithead, the latter End of which is to be reinforced with some Ships.

Two Squadrons will sail to watch the Motions of the French, to prevent their landing any where, Advices having been received preparing to transport 10,000 Men very speedily.

We have Advice from Cadiz, that the Fortune Sloop is ordered there from Gibraltar, and other Men of War, for the purpose of sailing outward or homeward.

February 17. Friday Morning, a Fleet fitted out as Transports, for the purpose of bringing over the Hessians.

We hear that Orders are issued for the Guns of Kent and Sussex, to be sent twenty Miles from the Sea.

Early Thursday Morning, a Sloop out in the Comping-House, with Deals took Fire, and Carelessness, as is supposed, in it, and is missing. It is believed that, tho' there was immediately two other Timber-Yards, and about thirty Houses were the Flames not stopping.

Holmes's Lime Wharf, with Deals took Fire, and Moorings, fell down with don-bridge and set several particularly the Rose, Slade, and Quarters are burnt, and another Rotherhithe, which was curing prevent her being burnt.

Lights which fell down London-bridge, and was prevented, by some Watermen to it. Sir Robert Ladbroke, in the Morning till Nine, reflecting the Populace, &c. the Flames.

Admiralty-Office, Jan. 31. pleased to order Thirty additional Marines to be forthwith sent to London.

We are assured that the Earl of Loudon will be promoted to a general, and appointed Commander of his Majesty's Forces in America.

It is said that three Battalions of America out of the Saltbush by their own People.

February 4. Besides the three Marines, it is reported that six more are to be forth with raised.

On the 1st Instant, Capt. Peckham at Bristol from Bilbao, was brought War of 80 Guns, off Rochelle, any English Men of War or three more Men of War of 74 standing to the Westward.

La Marville, Puelle, from London into Dover by the Falmouth Mail.

The following Taxes are talked of: Tax on Coaches, &c. a Tax upon Swords; a Tax of Five Salaries and Profits of Government present subject either to the additional Tax of Sixpence per Tax upon Dogs of all Denominations.

February 6. On Wednesday Navy contracted for 10,000 Tons ordered to be ready to proceed for at farthest.

On the 24th of last Month Richard Beckford, Esq; Alderman representative in the present Parliament, who, with the greatest zealously active in the Service of his Country, a sincere disinterested and laudable Quality of a great and good Business, in the Service of his Country only be felt and lamented by the Public Loss.

Extract of a Letter from London. It is publicly talked of that Forty Thousand of our Troops to make a Descent upon Seven hundred flat bottomed different Ports on the Coast with a large Train of Artillery scull this Enterprise may