

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, DECEMBER 31, 1779.

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It has been a radical advantage in drawing up the treaties of alliance and of commerce, that the intercourse between France and these States has been wholly new. The greater part of those treaties that have been negotiated, for some centuries, in Europe, have been founded on the basis of former treaties. It has been the usual introduction, to say, that "the treaty of Westphalia, 1648; that of Madrid, 1667 and 1670; the treaties of the peace of Nimeguen, 1678 and 1679; that of Ryswick, 1697; that of Utrecht, 1713, &c. &c. &c. shall serve for the basis of the present treaty: they shall be considered as making part of it, and all the articles shall be religiously executed, except those from which it shall be derogated by the present pacification." Former stipulations being thus taken for the ground-work, it is like building upon rubbish of bricks and ashes and burnt lime, where some claim long ago thought antiquated may still survive, and, like an ember, serve to kindle new burnings.

Nations on the continent of Europe have entered into treaties of alliance, in order to defend themselves against some powerful neighbour. Claims have been neglected by them, and mutual enmities have been suffered to lie dormant, while they were pressed by the common danger; but when hostilities had ceased against them, or were weakened in their force, these claims, and these enmities have revived, and the treaties that had been built up, fell before them, as the barrier of a wooden pallisade, before the flame that is lighted up within it.

Treaties have been concluded between two rival nations, one or both of whom, tired of a long war, and willing to enjoy peace, have been disposed to concede many things, or, at least, to omit the mention of them, which, afterwards, they would be willing to assert, when a better situation of affairs would put it in their power to assert them. Sometimes one part of the article of a treaty has been made to seem to revoke the other, and sometimes the stipulation has been designedly expressed in obscure language; for when both parties were not able to agree upon one certain and precise idea, it was necessary that the matter should be left, in dubio. In the treaty of Munster between France and Austria, the province of High and Low Alsace was ceded to the crown of France, with this reservation, "that the states, orders, cities, and gentlemen, who relieve immediately of the empire, should still continue to relieve of it; and that the most christian king shall exercise over the cities of the prefeutate, but the simple right of protection only which belongs to the house of Austria;" adding in the same article, "that the emperor and the empire do not mean by this means to derogate from the right of sovereign dominion, which has been yielded in the most extensive manner to the monarchy of France." It is evident, as father Bougeant remarks in his history of the peace of Westphalia, "that this clause was introduced to calm the fears of a province, which the empire detached from its body;" and it might have been the source of many quarrels, had it not been impliedly given up by the house of Austria, who remained silent on this head, at the peace of Ryswick, 1697.

At this peace, France, on her part, did not choose to assert her claim to the succession of the Spanish monarchy, in right of Maria Theresa, the wife of Louis XIV. but left it to be determined at a future day; and to determine it, we well know, was the subject of a long war at the beginning of this century, when every of the middle states of Europe, and even England, though remote, suffered greatly; and no good from the contention came to mortals, save only the famous officers on both sides, whose names became immortal from the spirit with which they led their armies, and the devastation with which they over-ran the countries of each other.

Hence we see, that between nations whose interests have often clashed with each other, it is difficult if not impossible to fix a lasting peace. One of these will apprehend that they have yielded too much, the other that they have not ac-

quired sufficient. Old claims will still lie at bottom; ancient prejudices will survive, and both kings and people will be unhappy until they are at war again.

The ground of the alliance between France and these states has been wholly new; no rubbish of old claims to be removed; no ancient treaties to build upon; all was smooth; the foundation-level; and the materials of the structure not the ruins of a former edifice, but hewn from the native rock, and cut from the mountain not before visited. Interests are combined wholly equal, and wholly new; and we have met with passions not before irritated, or affections ruffled by any means with each other.

It is no easy matter for nations or for individuals, whose minds have been often ruffled with hostilities from each other, to forget these and become friends. It is like placing together two broken, ragged, pointed, and uneven surfaces; they never can apply closely. How happy is it then when nations meet perfectly composed in their tempers, and do aptly cohere in alliance? How desirable that this temper be preserved? For when once interrupted, it is impossible to take away every point of prejudice and ill-humour which may spring up from the contention.

"Anger between lovers kindles love;" and altercation between friends begets a more tender friendship; but debates between nations, once arising, preclude, almost for ever, a sincere attachment. The anger of lovers is excess of love; where jealousy arises, giving them to apprehend that they are not, in turn, so much beloved as they would wish to be. The exercise of hope and fear, in the mean time, fixes the object in the mind, and the gentle exprobrations calling forth a declaration of regard, the soft affections rise in all their power and occupy the heart. Altercations between friends are of the same nature, and, in the interview between Brutus and Cassius at the town of Sardis, the poet has well imagined that language, "You love me not, Brutus." But in debates between nations, self interest and ambition are the principles which chiefly operate. These are cold principles; for says the duke de Rochefoucault, "Though we often rise from love to ambition, yet we seldom descend from ambition to love." Debates between nations are not the interruption only, but almost always the death of friendship. After many wars, mutual confidence and trust are not easily established. The blood that is shed on both sides calls from the earth, and posterity will for a long time, remember the wounds inflicted or received by their fathers. Debates are compromised by entering into terms; these terms may be misunderstood, misinterpreted, or misrepresented; and like the seeds of herbs in the soil that is ploughed up, new debates may spring out of them.

America and France have met in the early walks of a first acquaintance. There are no seeds of difference between us. Our mutual confidence exists perfect. Let it not be interrupted in the smallest instance, lest it may not, again, be perfect.

THE HONEST POLITICIAN.

• Ira amantium redintegratio est amoris. Ter. † Shakespeare.

LONDON, Sept. 28.

THE Baltic fleet of 70 sail, under convoy of the Serapis, and Scarborough, taken by Paul Jones's Squadron, made off, on the first of the engagement, for Scarborough bay, and all got safe within the castle.

Captain Pearson, who commanded the Serapis of 44 guns, which was taken by Paul Jones, was appointed to the Endymion of 44 guns lately launched at Lameboule, and fitting out there for sea, and was coming from off his station in the North Sea to go on board of her.

A letter from Thomas Williams, Esq; to John Phillips, Esq; at Liverpool, dated Treleth-in, September 17, says, "I write this to inform you that the Irish cutter privateer is in the Channel; left Fishguard this morning, and is gone either to the coast of Ireland or Studwell road; I think rather to the latter, as they had no water on board and were not suffered to land

at Fishguard. She took ten sail of sloops in Fishguard road, among them was the O. d. George, bound to Belfast from Bristol, ransomed for 300l. a sloop belonging to Mr. Bowen long-wair, also ransomed. She received 700l. some of the sloops she seized, she fired, they fly, 100 shot into the town, wanted four thousand pounds ransom. She carried some six pounders, one of which shot I saw brought here. Some say she is called the Black Prince, formerly belonging to Russia. She is chiefly manned with Irish, English, and Welsh."

The Three Friends, from Liverpool to New-York, was taken the 19th inst. by the Dunkirk privateer, alias Black Prince, in Labin's bay, in the island of Jura. In the said port he also took the Francisco de Paula, captain Antonio, taken before by the Defiance, captain Thompson, belonging to Liverpool, laden with wool, limes, and dollars; the dollars were landed before the Black Prince captured her.

The London Gazette has made the most of the Penobscot business; and the ministerial runners and writers, magnify it as much as they can. They have so few victories to rejoice at, that we could pardon their exultations, if we did not know that there was more reason for weeping than rejoicing. The only thing that Mr. Henry Clifton has been able to do, during this whole campaign, was getting possession of "that important post Stoney-Point up the North river." And general Washington watches his opportunity; takes it by surprise, and all the cannon, mortars, &c. carries them all off, and then dismantles it. This is another Trenton affair. With this difference. The Hessians at Trenton were made prisoners. The garrison at Stoney-Point were put to the sword, above four hundred. This was in retaliation for certain cruelties, committed by our soldiers last year. These massacres were too bad to be related, even in our Scotch gazette. Of one of these massacres, some English officers said "it was fortunately quite dark, and they only heard it; it had been day light they could not have bore the sight." The Scotch officers thought there was no need of it. The refugees alone rejoiced.

The gazette is silent respecting Paulus Hook. Is it not taken by the Americans? and were not the troops found in it put to the sword?

The ministers at length, have thought proper to give the public some account of general Prevost's business; but why have they not published general Prevost's letter? That letter in the gazette is not his; and they have artfully put his name to the return, not to the letter, to cover the deception. Fie upon such dirty tricks!

The combined fleets of France and Spain have by no means given up the intention of paying some of these countries a visit during the winter. The two fleets remain in Brest water for this purpose, and are reinforced by eleven more ships of the line. The idea of the Spanish fleet being afraid to return home without the French escorting them, is the ridiculous invention of the ministerial runners; it was not their purpose to return home without striking a blow; they leave such a conduct to other admirals.

The imputation raised against d'Orvilliers by his enemies was, that he did not beat the English fleet, and burn and destroy Portsmouth and Plymouth. In respect to the first; it has appeared to the French nation the English fleet took care he should not see them, and in respect to the latter he had no troops, or transports to effect it.

Notwithstanding all the puffing made about Sir George Collier's success, taking the retreat of general Prevost into the scale, the whole seems to be no more than a drawn battle; for if we have conquered by sea, the Americans have conquered by land.

Extract of a letter from Port-Glasgow, Sept. 23.

Two French cutters of 16 and 18 guns, have paraded St. George's Channel, and no longer ago than Sunday last, one of the cutters (for the other is gone north among the herring bufs, and has taken and destroyed several that we have already heard of) cut out of a bay in the island of Jura, a rich Spanish prize from New-Spain, with 17,000 dollars on board, beside a rich cargo of hat wool, &c. also a letter of

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cc. 17, 1779. ls to let on t-Indies, and and Council, poals as spe-

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of Samuel Jarnor's Bridge, marked in the or slip, and in the owner may and paying

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ETSON.

ARS REWARD. er 16, 1779. subscriber, ca- old infant, a- old last spring, and foot white, in form of a half- hoofs split, fi- spaces and trot- ve home to the- as Jones, black- 100 dollars re- stolen 160 del-

Copper-smith.

er 22, 1779- E. LOTTERY old class. These advantage to the d with the pre- of tickets in if the subscriber, n this, are re- application to re- d to others

VIDSON.

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barles-Strom.