

[XXXVth Year.]

THE

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

F R I D A Y, JANUARY 28, 1780.

for the MARYLAND GAZETTE. NUMBER XXVI.

DURING the minority of Lewis XV, and under the regency of the duke of Orleans, France gave every evidence of moderation and the love of peace. No danger had arisen to the liberties of Europe from the possession of the throne of Spain by a prince of the family of Bourbon. On the contrary, the several powers were now more engaged to prevent the hostilities of Spain against France, than they had been before to keep their interests separate. The cardinal Alberoni, a vast and immoderate genius, had formed the project, in concert with the baron Gortz, a minister worthy of a mad prince, Charles XII of Sweden, to seize the regency of France, to add Italy to Spain, and, as the English gave out, to place the house of Stuart on the throne of that island, and convert them all into Roman Catholics.

To oppose this bold project was the foundation of a triple alliance, between the states of Holland, France, and England; to which Spain afterwards acceding, when peace was concluded in 1713, it became quadruple. It was in order to induce Spain to accede to this treaty, that George I gave it in his own hand writing, to restore Port Mahon and Gibraltar, which had been taken from the Spaniards in the war of 1701. This engagement was secret, because the British nation, like wild beasts, cannot always listen to reason, so that even if a prince is pacific, he is under a necessity sometimes to refuse a just proposal, lest such surrender may be disappointed of by the people. Spain, on this ground, has not ceased to reclaim these strong places, and it now mixes with the causes of the present war against England, that they have not been hitherto restored.

It was but a few years afterwards that England was again embroiled with Spain, on account of some treaty which Riporda, a minister of that nation, had negotiated with the empire, whence it was again dreaded on the part of England, that the protestant succession was in danger. England was on this occasion the offending party. Mrs. Macanley observes, "that the detaching admiral Hopkins, 1726, before war was declared or had broke out, was unrighteous; England having incurred the odium of having entered into a piratical scheme of robbing the court of Spain of its expected treasure, even when a peace subsisted between the two nations." Speaking in general, she calls the contests of the British nation, during these periods, "the paroxysms of Quixotic rage, without the plea of necessity, or even rational cause," and "entering into needless wars and unprovoked hostilities."

Affairs were compromised, 1727, by the moderation of the court of France; but a new source of debate sprang up to the two nations, in relation to commerce, and in fixing the boundaries of their possessions in the new world. For it is to be remarked, that after the peace of Utrecht, a new spirit spread itself in Europe. The several powers, weary of ambition and the evils which they had endured, had finally found out that their constitution did not permit them to be conquerors, and that war could not exalt their fortune. Exhausted by the vast expences they had made, they perceived that their enterprises were above their strength, and now they thought of nothing but of encreasing their finances, and reducing them to order. England, sensible of the great resources she had drawn from commerce in her long wars on the continent, was now more engaged than ever to extend it. Her vast power enabled her to gratify her ambition, and to extract from the house of Austria, the revocation of the charter granted to the Ostend company, by which it had been proposed to carry on a trade to the East Indies. Her next object was to engross the whole trade of the new world. Whatever measures Spain had taken since the duke of Anjou had been settled on the throne, she had not ceased to have just complaints against England. It is probable she would have resented sooner these injuries; had she not been taken up

with the affairs of Europe, until the establishment of Don Carlos in Italy. She made, at length, some remonstrances to that court, but not being able to obtain any satisfaction, she found it necessary to augment the number of her guarda costas, and the orders which she gave to be vigilant in preventing the contraband abuse of commerce, occasioned some hostilities. England declaring war in 1739, it was carried on with less advantages on her part, than the superiority of her maritime force had given reason to expect; and after one campaign it felt itself, so to speak, in the war which the death of Charles VI kindled up, and which fixed the attention of Europe. Leopold, the father of Charles V, and Joseph, king of the Romans, in order to preserve that mass of power accumulated by the house of Austria had entered into a family compact, called the pragmatic sanction, September 12, 1703, in virtue of which it was regulated, that in default of male heirs, the succession to the dominions and hereditary countries appertaining to this house, should go undivided and according to the order of primogeniture, to the heirs of the female line.

There was little question of this domestic law, relative to the Austrian succession, until in 1741, when Charles VI caused it to be made public, in all the countries under his dominions. The most lively complaints burst forth; but the court of Vienna was not to be intimidated by a storm she had foreseen. She went before it; and venturing herself with pliancy to all around, she employed her whole credit to obtain from different powers a guarantee of this agreement. England and the states of Holland, contrary to all law or justice, but in order to obtain on their part, some partial favours in their debates with France and Spain, had entered into a guarantee of this succession. The king of Prussia, 1740, was an early champion against this claim, with whom France entering into a treaty at Breslau, June 3, 1741, she wed herself the advocate of those rights which had been injured by it. In 1743 this kingdom saw herself almost in the same situation as in the war of 1701, when most of the powers of Europe were combined against her. The ambition of the house of Austria had kindled this flame, and the unjust spirit of the English, had led them to fan and encrease the burning. The peace of Aix la Chapelle, concluded 1748, put an end to this war, which in its rise had bid fair to change the face of the affairs of Europe, and to give the states new interests; but which, nevertheless, with the small exception of the duchy of Parma, Silesia, and some cantons of the Milanese, left the powers of Europe in the same situation in which they were before the war, save that they had contracted new debts, and that all had need of a long peace to establish their finances.

THE HONEST POLITICIAN.

UTRECHT, September 9.

BY authentic advices received here, it is past a doubt, that during the winter a negotiation will be set on foot to terminate the differences that have kindled a war between France, Spain, and England. The empress of Russia, who has already acquired so much glory by giving peace to Germany, has much at heart the re-establishment of it in other parts of Europe. This august princess has, it is said, made overtures on this subject, to an ally of Great-Britain, to engage that power to act in concert with her in so salutary a work, and the ambassadors extraordinary to be sent by that ally for that end to the courts of Versailles, Madrid, and London, are already nominated. But it is feared this undertaking will meet with so many difficulties, that it will miscarry, because not one of the three powers has yet met with any reverse to oblige her to desist from her pretensions, unless that through sentiments of humanity they should give up something to prevent the calamities of war from spreading farther.

Sept. 25. Our letters of the 13th of August from Gibraltar mention, that the Spaniards continue to block up the bay, and are making every preparation necessary to besiege the place.

We have accounts from Copenhagen, that it is reported, that the Imperialists have taken pos-

session of the islands of Nicobar, in the East-Indies, to the south west of Sumatra, which causes much astonishment, as they were always reputed to belong to the king of Denmark.

LONDON, Sept. 21.

Extract of a letter from Thomas Caden, Esq; commander, of his majesty's snow Lurcker, dated Port-Royal harbour, Jamaica, Aug 1.

Last Sunday afternoon we arrived here with the Pallas, a French packet of sixteen guns, which we took after a chase of forty seven hours, and a running fight of thirteen glasses. She came from France, and was bound with government dispatches to the commander in chief and governor of Cape Francois. We had the good fortune to secure her dispatches, and all the letters she had on board, which have been delivered to the admiral.

Four persons belonging to the office of ordnance in the tower attend alternately every night, in order to be in readiness, if an express arrives: a fresh supply of horses is posted at every stage, in order to expedite the same.

Extract of a letter from Bassora, to the court of directors of the East-India company, dated the 26th of May, 1779.

"This we dispatch purposely to advise you of the capture of Mahie, which was surrendered to the Madras troops, under the command of Colonel Braithwaite, the 20th of March, on capitulation, in which private property was to be preserved. We congratulate you, therefore, on the French not having at present one flag flying in India."

Extract of a letter from the Hague, Sept. 10.

"The empress of Russia is said to have sent a letter to the states of Holland, in which her imperial majesty says, that struck with motives of compassion for the calamities which war inevitably brings along with it, and having been so happy as to have assisted in bringing about a peace between the empress queen and king of Prussia, her majesty hath also undertaken to use her mediation to bring about an amicable accommodation between France and Great-Britain; but seeing since, that Spain had meddled in affairs of France, and joined that power against Great Britain, she could no longer look with an eye of indifference on such unjust attacks upon England, particularly as the motives alleged by the court of Spain against that of London are very ill founded and trivial; that to effect an accommodation her imperial majesty had made overtures to the court of Versailles, containing proposals which were, in her opinion, very proper and acceptable, and she hoped would be approved of; but that her majesty could not help declaring that if from motives of ill-timed obstinacy, and contrary to her expectation, France and Spain should be unwilling to listen to them; she should find herself obliged to use all the forces which Providence had put into her hands to assist Great-Britain against its enemies, to prevent that country from being crushed, and by that means to keep up that balance of power so conducive to the welfare of Europe. Her imperial majesty farther desires their high mightinesses to consider what must be the consequences to the navigation of all the powers of these parts of the world, and particularly that of the United Provinces, as being the most extensive, should France and Spain gain the empire of the sea, and by that means be enabled to prescribe what arbitrary laws they please. In short, she heartily invites the states to join her in using their utmost endeavours to establish a peace between the three belligerent powers.

"This letter is said to have made such an impression upon their high mightinesses, that they immediately resolved to offer their mediation for the happy purpose intended, and that they had even appointed the ambassadors they intend to send to the three courts, who are, to that of Versailles, compt de Ondam, a member of the corps of nobles of Holland; to the court of London, M. de Brantzon, member of the assembly of the states general; and to that of Madrid, the baron de Eynden a Hemmen, also a member of that assembly; these gentlemen will, it is said, set out immediately; and if the king of Prussia, as it is reported he will, join his mediation to that of the states general and the em-

Vertical text on the left margin, including fragments like "this state is to be laid out in eastern front", "nothing herein taken to prohibit", "for the MARYLAND GAZETTE", "all not be lawful", "EDWARD", "Jan. 17, 1780", "er, on Thursday", "coat, jacket and", "mb, an ax, some", "shot in a leather", "PATRICK RAY", "10 inches high", "country cloth coat", "ket, the breeches", "he has a call in", "very large limbs", "his having had", "ginia, which he", "from the British", "bitch, with jack", "Whoever will be", "e brought to jail", "dollars if taken in", "county the above", "IN M'COY.", "S REWARD.", "January 6, 1780.", "iber's plantation", "Annapolis, on the", "to Baltimore, on", "ber last, a likely", "TOM, about", "out well set follow", "rather large; had", "coloured coat", "ed short waistcoat", "ed country cloth", "aim a pair of Ja-", "yarn stockings", "apprehended that", "get over into Vir-", "ght when a small", "of John Morton", "ever will appear", "him to the sub-", "e reward if taken", "aryland a further", "e, besides all res-", "H SCOTT.", "ffered to the first", "sibly after this no-", "ght week; for an", "giving effect from", "n Prince-George's", "Josias Shaw, for", "Williams and An-", "HENDERSON.", "en for clean", "AGS.", "Charles-Street.", "2d. in 1807 1/2.