

of their own country; where naval tactics are arriving at a degree of perfection unknown before in that empire.

Oct. 23. On Saturday arrived from Paris, his excellency John Jay, Esq; minister plenipotentiary from the United States of America to the court of Madrid, and one of the late commissioners for settling the terms of peace with Great-Britain.

Dr. Franklin has announced his intentions of visiting England the ensuing spring. His motive for this excursion, is to see his friends, and take his final leave of them previous to his departure for America, in which country he is desirous that the remains of his earthly tabernacle should be deposited.

By some letters which were on Friday received from Ireland, we learn, that instructions had been prepared, which are to be delivered to the respective members of parliament by a deputation of the volunteers. These instructions require the members to vote for, and move the following objects.

A Parliamentary Reform.
An Abolition Tax.
A Repeal of the Stamp Act.
An Irish Court of Admiralty and Post-Office.
Equal duties on English Manufactures.
And a Six Months Money Bill, until these objects shall be obtained.

At no period of the war was money in the city of London so scarce as at present, and indeed credit is now so low that accuracy in payments is not expected; between the sums locked up in the stocks by those who bought immediately on the arrival of the preliminary articles, and the money engaged in ventures to the West-Indies and America, all the fluctuating property of the nation is taken up, and will probably continue so for a twelvemonth.

It must give every lover of science pleasure to hear that Mr. Thomas Harding, of Meath-street, Dublin, has after long and painful study, completed an instrument, which he terms the improved odent, that it will be of singular service in surveying, navigation, and even astronomy. A correspondent observes it will be doing the inventor the utmost injustice not to acknowledge his merit in the contrivance, which by a simple motion of the instrument, without any labour or trouble, expeditiously solves every case in plain and spherical trigonometry with the greatest precision: exhibits the difference of latitude and departure by having the course and distance at one view, as also the course, distance, and difference of longitude, by having the middle latitude and departure. It is, in short, an epitome of volumes, comprising such a multitude of figures in the compass of 10 inches square, as if distributed into sheets would fill a folio book of 200 pages. Our correspondent further informs us, that Mr. Harding presented a model of this instrument to the Dublin society in the year 1769, which though at that time imperfect, was greatly admired; the simplicity of its construction and facility of its operation, gave general satisfaction—but the main point to render it extensively useful being then undiscovered, it could not be received without some exception. The inventor having long since remedied the defect, has by the aid of an ingenious artist, given it the finishing stroke, and made it, without flattery or ostentation, the most perfect mechanical calculator that has been offered to the public.

To prevent the many accidents that happen in cleansing foul wells, through the badness of the vapour lodged at the bottom of them, a correspondent recommends the following effectual method; let down an iron pot, with a few ounces of gunpowder in it, to the surface of the water, then toss a shovel full of live coals into the well, some of which will probably fall into the pot, and set the powder on fire, the explosion of which will effectually dispel the noxious damps, and thereby render it safe for workmen to go down.

A correspondent expresses his surprise at the idea of sending the convicts in future to Nova-Scotia. This measure has certainly given high offence to some of the most respectable loyalists, and, it is feared, will prevent many from attempting a settlement on that inhospitable shore. How will the industrious mechanic relish being obliged to herd with the overflowings of Newgate? With all the ruffians, thieves, and murderers, who, we are told, are about to be sent among them? It surely appears to be inconsistent with every rule of sound policy, to brand with this mark of infamy the last sad refuge for the king's friends.

The following anecdote may be depended on as a fact. When general Burgoyne went over to Portugal, in the year 1762, he was attended by his lady, and lord George and lady Lenox, who, on their arrival at Lisbon, took a large house for the accommodation of both their families. The king of Portugal, who felt his obligations to the British officers who came to defend his kingdom, was solicitous of paying every possible attention to their ladies; he therefore presented them with some very extraordinary china, selected from among the most valuable in his possession. The present was highly esteemed, while the care of it was the perpetual subject of conversation. There unfortunately happened, however, a little time after, to be a dreadful hurricane in the middle of the night, which induced lady Charlotte, daughter of the late lord Darby, married to general Burgoyne, to wake the general and request that she might be allowed to fetch up the favourite china into her own chamber for its more perfect security. Accordingly, taking a wax taper in her hand, she soon reached the closet, and was returning up stairs with the china wrapped up in the bottom of her shift, when in turning an angle, she was surprised at the sight of an old Scotchman belonging to lady Lenox, who had been dispatched on the same errand for his mistress. The confusion was great—the situation delicate—the alternative distressing, however, her ladyship instantly dropped her chemise and rescued the china to atoms.

Extra of a letter from from Koenigsburgh, (Poland) September 3.

"The wife of a merchant in this city exhibits an uncommon example of fecundity. She was brought to bed of five children, three sons and two daughters, all like to do well, and the mother suffered no more than is natural to expect in such a labour."

Anecdote of Louis XII. The king being at his castle of Pleffis, near Tours, one evening went into the kitchen, where he found a boy turning the spit. The boy had something in his countenance which prepos-

essed the king in his favour so much, that he entered into conversation with him, by demanding from whence he came—who he was, and how much he gained. The lad, not knowing the king, replied, with an honest simplicity, "that he came from Berri—that his name was Stephen—and that he gained as much as the king." "How much gains the king?" demanded Louis, with some degree of astonishment; "his expences, (added the boy) and I gain mine." This ingenious and liberal answer so pleased the king, that he took him under his protection, and appointed him his valet de chambre.

Humorous anecdote of a baker. One of this business was charged by a person in a different line, with purloining from the articles sent by the neighbours to his oven. He admitted the accusation to be well founded, and challenged his accuser to guard against his impositions. For this purpose he proposed a bet of one shilling's worth of punch, that out of three he would take one rib of beef without discovery. The proposal was readily accepted, and the meat brought to the baker's shop. He took off a rib, and with it the principal part of the flesh belonging to the adjoining one. In this state it was returned to the owner. A meeting was held to decide the wager. The baker asked if he had not performed his engagement? His opponent answered in the negative, for that the theft was evident. Why then, replied Burnt Crust, I must pay my shilling. Thus did he artfully turn the tables on his antagonist, and for twelve-pennyworth of punch entitled himself to seven pounds of prime English roasting beef.

DUBLIN, June 18.

Last Monday about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, as Mr. Dominic Mahon was coming to this city with cash to the amount of above £. 1000 on account of his brother, Mr. Patrick Mahon, of Gort, in the county of Galway, he was stopped by six footpads, armed with pistols and swords, about five miles on this side of Kinnegon. Mr. Mahon had a servant with him, a Munster lad, who had £. 800 in a portmanteau, and he had himself better than 200 guineas in his pocket. Two of the villains kept behind the servant's horse to hinder them from retreating, three went before Mr. Mahon's horse to prevent their advancing, whilst the sixth went up to him with a sword in one hand and a pistol in the other, and told him to deliver his money immediately, otherwise if he hesitated he would put him to instant death.

Mr. Mahon said he had no more money about him than was necessary for his expences to Dublin, but that he should get what was in the portmanteau, which amounted to above £. 2000. He hoped that they might not be used ill, and as the servant was a Munster lad that could not speak English, if he would give him leave he would speak to him in Irish, to give up the contents of the portmanteau peaceably. The robber desired him to do so, and neither of them should be hurt. Mr. Mahon took this opportunity of speaking to his man in Munster Irish, to pretend to open the portmanteau, but to shoot the villain while he kept him in discourse, and then defend themselves as well as they could against the other five, as each of them had fortunately a case of loaded pistols. The servant gave Mr. Mahon to understand that he would stick by him, and follow his directions. He accordingly pretended to be opening the portmanteau, but as the villain was speaking to his master, knocked him senseless with the butt end of his whip. The two behind ran up to his assistance, one of whom Mr. Mahon fired at, and shot off his nose, on which his companion made off, while he staggered to the side of the road with his handkerchief to his face. The other three came now up with dreadful imprecations; two went to seize the portmanteau, while the third, taking Mr. Mahon's horse by the bridle, presented a pistol to his breast, and desired him to deliver; Mr. Mahon told him he would, put one hand in his pocket, and got a pistol; and with the other seized the highwayman's, who immediately fired, and the ball went through the sleeves of Mr. Mahon's body and great coats, without doing him any injury. Mr. Mahon then drew his pistol and shot the fellow through the heart, on which his two companions made off without their booty, and Mr. Mahon and his man arrived safe in town the same night.

ST. JOHN'S, (Antigua) October 31, 1783.

On Monday last arrived here in seventeen days from Philadelphia, the ship Antigua Packet, captain Carlson. Her cargo consisting of various articles very much wanted, were not permitted to be landed, and she is gone to leeward.

For several days past the wind has blown from unusual quarters, the south and west. On Monday two sloops came into the harbour from Montserrat, having been forced from their anchorage there by the high surge. We fear that many accidents have happened at some of the neighbouring islands, particularly at Basseterre, St. Christopher, where a strong south wind generally proves fatal to the shipping. The severe thunder and lightning on Monday night we are happy to find has done no damage.

BOSTON, December 25.

It is reported as an undoubted fact, that James Rivington, printer at New-York, was, as soon as our troops entered the city, protected in person and property, by a guard, and that he will be allowed to reside in the country, for reasons best known to the great men at the helm.

WINDSOR, (Vermont) November 20.

Advices from the lower part of Windham county, mention, that the inhabitants of the town of Halifax, who have heretofore refused to support the authority of Vermont, and acted in opposition to its government, have lately come in almost to a man, and acknowledge themselves subjects of this state, taken the oath of allegiance, discharged their arrearage taxes, and appear desirous to assist in quelling those disturbers of the public peace, who have long infested the south-east part of this state.

SPRINGFIELD, December 16.

The people in the western parts of this state, who still themselves shaking quakers, and who suppose they, and they only, have discovered the true mode of worship, have of late (it is said) utterly disclaimed the use of any kind of garment when engaged in their religious

exercises; presenting themselves unpolluted by vain and unchristian articles of dress, and performing all their turnings, jumpings, tumblings, twirlings and wriggings, in that condition.

PROVIDENCE, December 13.

A few days since, some young men skating on a pond in North Providence, one of them approaching the further edge, observed a man on the shore with a musket, who threatened to fire on him if he went nearer. This circumstance causing some suspicion, a number of people went out next morning, who discovered, in an unfrequented pine swamp, near the pond, a large cave, containing cooking utensils, a quantity of dead poultry, and a variety of stolen goods. A horse and a cart were also found near the cave, but the subterranean inhabitants had fled.

NEW-HAVEN, December 16.

By a vessel just arrived from the West-Indies, we have certain intelligence that the English merchants are obtaining foreign papers in a clandestine manner, in order to carry on a trade with us (which they are conscious would be extremely improper to do under their own colours, while their ports are shut against our vessels;) particularly a saou and brig belonging to Antigua, have procured a set of French papers at St. Kitts, and are destined to some part of the continent. If we were to trade with any nation upon any other terms but that of reciprocal privileges (and such as are manifestly detrimental to us) certainly Great-Britain is not the nation such a preference belongs to.

NEW-YORK, December 27.

Extra of a letter from London, dated October 24th, 1783, from a gentleman of reputation and intelligence, who lately left this country, to his friend in this city. (Inserted by particular desire.)

"Mr. Jay is just arrived in London. I have not yet seen him. At Paris I had a long conversation with him and Dr. Franklin. They are both very much hurt at the violent measures the states in general have adopted respecting the loyalists. Indeed our national character is much lowered in the opinion of Europe; and nothing but a more generous conduct, and a strong federal union, with funds established for the payment of the interest of our debts, will render us respectable. The prevailing opinion here is to exclude us from the carrying trade. And they certainly will do it, if they find America is not cemented by a strict union, and able by that union to prohibit all British vessels their ports, or only to admit them on such terms as Congress shall direct."

Dec. 30. We are informed, that his Britannic Majesty's ship Assistance, of 50 guns, with com. Sir Charles Douglas, and the Hermione frigate, capt. Smith, of thirty two guns, will proceed from Sandy-Hook to Barbados and Antigua, where they will winter; and in the spring repair to their station at Halifax, Nova-Scotia.

PHILADELPHIA, January 3.

The report which prevailed in this city a few weeks since, relative to the state of Massachusetts-Bay having rejected the act of commutation, is entirely void of foundation. They have, on the contrary, not only adopted the five per cent. impost, but resolved to comply with the terms of that act in the fullest and most extensive manner; which has given great satisfaction to the officers of their line.

When the present council of New-York published their ordinance, precluding British adherents from the privilege of voting at elections, an honest Caledonian pertinently remarked, that they had now obtained what they had long wished and fought for, viz. taxation without representation.

Verailles, June 18, 1783.

Extra of an arrest of the council of state, relating to the salt of Brouage and Saintonge, exported to foreign countries.

"The council of state having taken into consideration, some memorials presented by the proprietors of the salt marshes of Saintonge, of the district of Brouage and the adjacent islands, by which it appears that the salt commerce to foreign countries has been overcharged with additional imposts, and that the renovation of peace presenting a new channel of commerce with the United States of America, ought to induce government to encourage so important an article of exportation; the king being in his council, and sensible of the justice of the said representations, has ordered, that from the day of publication of the present arret, until the first of January 1786, instead of the 10 sols per livre, which used to be payed as an addition to the principal impost for the salt of Saintonge, of the district of Brouage and adjacent islands, there shall not be paid more than 2 sols per livre, contrary to the edict of August, 1781; which however, in every other article is to be executed according to its form and tenor.

BALTIMORE, January 9.

Extra of a letter from Bush, dated January 7, 1784.

"I am sorry I am under the necessity to inform you of an accident which happened yesterday in the run beyond Campbell's—The stage attempting to cross, the current was so violent that it overturned with eight persons in it, some of whom had like to have been drowned; all the baggage with the bed of the waggon and hind wheels were taken down the stream some distance—the horses with the fore wheels got out—the passengers being under some time, disengaged themselves of the waggon and got out with a great deal of difficulty: a log which lay across the run, some distance below, brought up the remains of the waggon. A few things were found in the creek this morning, chiefly belonging to the passengers—one gentleman I am particularly sorry for, whose trunk being small (containing 460 guineas) is carried down and supposed to have gone under the ice in the tideway. The mail was taken up a mile and a half below the ford."

ANNAPOLIS, January 15.

Yesterday definitive articles of peace and friendship between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty were ratified and confirmed by Congress, nine states being present.—The whole will be published tomorrow in a Gazette extraordinary, not being furnished in time for this day's paper.