

brought upon the tapis, and now likely to be in some degree perfected, the court of Lisbon are alarmed on the prospect of Portugal wines being less contumed in this kingdom, if French wines, from the taking off the duties, should find a vent here. A proposal has been accordingly made by her most faithful majesty to take off all the restrictions complained of by the English factories in that kingdom, on condition of a remission of some particular duties on wines, the production of the dominions of Portugal.

The William and Henry, captain Hardwicke, from Africa, with two hundred slaves, was totally lost as she was going into Jamaica the 26th of August, and only eighty of the slaves were saved.

Sir Guy Carleton certainly goes to Quebec in the quality of governor; but every man acquainted with the geography of the place, knows that it would be impossible to go up the Laurence river in the month of December. The governor consequently does not go out for some time.

Nov. 4. It was yesterday reported with confidence in the polite circles, that the king has made a proposal to the prince of Wales of a very important kind. His majesty proposed to settle one hundred thousand pounds a year on his royal highness for his establishment—that two hundred thousand pounds should be granted to pay his debts, and an adequate sum for completing the buildings at Carleton-house—on condition that the prince shall consent to marriage; and the princess which his majesty recommends is Frederica Louisa Wilhelmina, daughter of the prince of Orange, stadtholder, born the 28th of November 1770, and consequently now fifteen years of age.

His majesty desired his royal highness to take three days to consider of the proposal. The prince is said to have given for answer, that he was sensible of his majesty's paternal goodness in the proposal, and he intreated him to believe, that he was sincerely disposed to the marriage state. He had a high respect for the lady, of whose accomplishments he had heard the warmest commendations; but he trusted his majesty would excuse him from pledging his word to a princess whom he had not seen. Here we understand the matter rests.

The report so often propagated of a rupture being on the eve of breaking out between Russia and the Porte, have been contradicted by the Russian ambassador, resident in London, who has acquainted our court, by order of the czarina, that the most perfect harmony subsists between the two empires.

Earl Cornwallis and the marquis de Fayette, met at the late review of the Prussian troops at Potsdam, and had the honour of being introduced to each other, by the veteran Frederick himself.

#### KINGSTON, (Jamaica) Nov. 5.

The schooner General Shirley has been the terrible space of ninety-two days on her passage from Charleston. On the 23d of September, in lat. 26. long. 56. she was encountered by a violent gale of wind, which drove her through the Old Bahama Straits, and by which she lost her rudder, had her rigging all torn, and her boat and lumber washed off deck. It was not without the utmost difficulty that she made Port Antonio, whence she had ten days hither.

We learn from Nova Scotia, that the French have sent out an armament of four sail of the line, and some lighter ships, to Cape Breton, for the purpose of preventing the English from erecting any military works in that part of the world.

The French have made the ports of Tobago free, in order to obstruct the trade of Grenada, and crush its rising intercourse with the Spanish Main and Trinidad. The same court has also made the ports of Martinica free, in order to drain Dominica of its only probable means of supporting the few merchants who have resolution to keep their stations in that colony, having proved so fatal to the original adventurers. Had our ministers the smallest political wisdom, would they not fling open the ports of Grenada, Dominica and Antigua, in order to counteract the French and support the British colonies; by the assistance of which the English manufacturers might be enabled to export their goods, that are so heavily charged with burthens.

#### QUEBEC, October 20.

On Sunday the 9th instant, between four and five in the afternoon, an uncommon darkness was perceived here, though at the same time the atmosphere over this city appeared of a fiery luminous yellow colour; this was followed by squalls of wind and rain, with several thunder and lightning which continued most of the night, a thing uncommon here at this season, it having froze considerably the night before.

On Saturday the 15th, about fifteen minutes after three in the afternoon it became darker than it had been the Sunday before, and the sky of much the same colour; it was succeeded by a heavy shower and very severe thunder and lightning.

Sunday morning the 16th was quite calm and foggy till about 10 o'clock, when there arose some wind from the eastward which partly expelled the fog; in about half an hour after it became so dark that ordinary print could not be read within doors; this was followed by a squall of wind and rain, when it brightened up again. From five till ten minutes after 12, the darkness was so great that the ministers in the English and presbyterian churches

were obliged to stop till they got candles. From two o'clock till about ten minutes after, it was as dark as midnight when there was no moon-light. From forty-three till about fifty minutes after three o'clock, it was total darkness; and from thirty-five till forty five minutes after four it was very dark. The people in this city dined by candle-light, and spent a part of the afternoon in lighting up and extinguishing them. Each period of darkness was followed by gusts of wind and rain with some severe claps of thunder, and the atmosphere looked as before described. It was remarked that on the days before mentioned there appeared to be two adverse currents of air, the uppermost impelling a luminous strata of clouds towards the N. E. and the lower driving with great rapidity broken milky clouds toward the S. W. and that the rain water which fell on Sunday during those gusts was almost black.

#### MONTREAL, October 20.

On Sunday the 16th instant, the air was darkened by a thick fog, which dissipated about ten o'clock. The atmosphere was of a luminous fiery colour. About two o'clock in the afternoon, it became dark by degrees, in such a manner, that about half an hour after two, people could not see one another in the houses. This lasted twenty minutes, and was followed by lightning, thunder, and rain, which gradually diminished the darkness; it was however very difficult to read without candle light at three o'clock. This period was of short duration, for the darkness came on again at seven minutes past three, and it grew by degrees as dark as before, inasmuch that no night ever was more obscure than it was at this time. The black clouds dispersed about fourteen minutes past three, but lightning, thunder, and a heavy rain, continued till about half after five.

Doctor Setre, who resides in this city, says, that having perceived the rain water that fell during the shower to be of a black colour, he smelt it, and finding it had a sulphurous smell, he placed in the middle of his yard a muslin handkerchief in the form of a funnel, at the bottom of which he found a black sediment; having rubbed it between his fingers, he found that its smell was owing to no other cause but the sulphur which composes its substance. Hence he is of opinion that the only cause of this phenomenon was the inflammation of some neighbouring mines, whose thick smoke being condensed in the air was driven by the wind over this region.

#### BOSTON, December 5.

A gentleman last week from Portsmouth, informs as a fact, that a gentleman from B—n, bound in the country, met a likely girl with a child in her arms, and invited her into his chair, which she kindly accepted, and in rising along they agreed to put up at night as man and wife; coming to a tavern late in the evening, took supper, and the man went to bed; the woman, then in the chamber, gave the child to the man in the bed; upon the child's crying, the woman said she would go down and get something to quiet it, but not returning, the man became uneasy, got up, and went to inquire after her, and on finding she had made off, was going in pursuit of her, when the landlord seized him, and detained him, until he gave sufficient security that the child should not become a charge to that town.

#### HARTFORD, December 12.

Last Wednesday evening, Messieurs Ashbel and Uriah Shepherd of this city, and James Barton, a native of Ireland, going down the river, through stress of weather, had the misfortune to fill their boat, and were drifted upon a small island, near Red-bank on Glastenbury shore; where wet and fatigued, destitute of any help, or float to bring them off, or shelter to cover them from the extremity of the weather, nothing but the gloom of night and the horrors of a speedy approaching death surrounding them on all sides—thus situated, Barton resolved to attempt a passage to the shore on ice, which proving too weak, he fell through and was drowned. The others continued till about eight o'clock, when on the brink of perishing, they were providentially relieved by some people, who had been working at a saw-mill. Barton's body has since been found, brought to this city and decently interred. A widow and one child are left to lament his untimely fate.

#### MIDDLETON, (Connecticut) December 13.

Yesterday morning about four o'clock, a small shock of an earthquake was felt in this city.

#### NEW-YORK, December 15.

The French, by a master-stroke of sound policy, are holding forth inducements to such as had hitherto quitted their country on account of their religion, to return to their native soil, where they may establish themselves under the tutelary shelter of toleration; foreigners are also invited under a similar sanction, and the city of Marseilles is to be enlarged for their reception. The Hugonots (a contemptuous appellation formerly given to those of the reformed religion in France) were ever admitted to understand the silk manufacture superior to any other people (as the reformation chiefly spread where that fabric was principally carried on) but by an arret of Louis XIV. these useful manufacturers were in a

measure obliged to take shelter in England, and other countries, which proved a means of establishing that branch in the different places, and of course has been considered as an inseparable injury to the French dominions; numbers have since been constantly quitting that kingdom; but from the liberality and good sense of the present sovereign, this evil will be entirely obviated, and the arts flourish with renovated vigour.

A letter from Quebec, of October 28, says, "just after the total darkness, a large ball of fire fell into the river, near a large ship, which was seen by many. It caused an uncommon agitation in the water."

Dec. 21. A tolerating disposition seems now to have pervaded, in a greater or less degree, almost every part of Europe, and those prejudices which fetter mankind at variance with their brethren, and produced consequences degrading to their nature, and contradictory to the spirit of the gospel as well as the lights of reason and humanity, are no longer or but weakly felt. By the Amsterdam gazette of the 4th of October we learn, that the city of Hamburg, awakened to a sense of the obligations of justice and sound policy, have at length put their seal to a general toleration, and in an assembly of the city council and burghers, solemnly resolved to grant to the reformed protestants and Roman catholics established there, an entire liberty of conscience, with the privilege of publicly professing and practising their respective modes of worship. The liberties of this great trading city have been often in danger from the religious disputes heretofore bitterly carried on between those of the established religion (Lutheranism) and the Roman catholics, and in 1708, the then reigning emperor of Germany, interposing in favour of the latter, ordered a considerable body of his troops to enter their city, so that the inhabitants were necessitated to purchase a peace. Till the late judicious resolution, no chapels, except of foreign ministers, were admitted, and they even interdicted their subjects from resorting to them.

Dec. 23. We hear, that Messrs. Allen and Moore were to open a theatre at Albany, on Tuesday the 13th inst. By authority. An occasional prologue, the comedy of Cross Purposes—an eulogy on Free Masonry, and Garrick's improvement of Shakspeare's Taming of the Shrew, were to constitute the entertainment of the night: and that from the great encouragement they have met with, good receipts were expected.

We learn that his Britannic majesty's old and new subjects, merchants and others, citizens of Montreal, have addressed his honour lieutenant-governor Hamilton, of the province of Quebec, expressive of their sense of the mildness and benignity of his government as commander in chief; of his becoming attention to the voices of his subjects; of the salutary effects of his laws; of his protection of their trade; of his general care for the welfare of the province in general, &c. wishing him distinguishing marks of favour from his most gracious sovereign at his arrival in London, for which place he is soon to set sail, having been superseded in his post.

Captain Starbuck of the brig Peggy, November 11, in latitude 30. 48 spoke the sloop Intrepid, Benjamin Rhodes, out 25 days from Boston, then in distress, to cut out her hands, soon after which the sloop sunk; same day spoke the sloop Hibernia, captain Tews, out 35 days from Port au-Prince, very leaky, and on an allowance of half a biscuit per day.

#### PHILADELPHIA, December 22.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman now at the Hague, dated September 30, 1785.

"I am distressed to hear, wherever I go, such melancholy accounts from our country, and especially from your state. The act of your assembly for taking away the charter of the bank, has done more mischief to our country than you can conceive. Hundreds of people (many of whom had property) in England were preparing to embark for America; others, who have overgrown fortunes, were about to invest their cash in our lands; and a few were about to lodge money in your bank, when the tidings of the attack upon it reached London. They have all changed their minds, and now consider nothing as secure in the new states. I hope that the good sense of your state will revive, and that the late law will not be carried into execution. I am glad to hear your state has taken care of their proportion of the public debt. This will do you honour. But, why should you attempt to restore public credit in one instance, and not in another? Who will trust the paper of a government, that can wantonly destroy a charter? The flimsy preamble to the act for taking away the charter is laughed at by all sensible men. What do your assembly mean by perfect equality and the safety of the commonwealth? There ever will be inequality of property, where there is inequality of industry; and as to the safety of the commonwealth, I am sure they do not consult it, who render private property insecure; for bank stock is private property—and even an incorporated body is to the state no more than a private person, and should possess, as far as property is concerned, all his privileges, and equal protection from the laws."

Dec. 23. Captain Britton, of the Roebuck Packet, from Falmouth, the 2d inst. in longitude 60. 00. spoke the ship Philadelphia Packet, captain Tucker, from St. Ubes, bound to New-York, out fifty days.