

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, APRIL 6, 1786.

L O N D O N, November 19. THE state of Naples is fitting out several small ships of war to protect the trade of the country against the depredations of the Algerines.

The king of Naples has a very handsome portrait of general Elliott, which was presented to him by a Neapolitan nobleman, in consequence of the latter being allowed the honour to have a drawing from the original picture in the palace, of the governor of Sicily, who during a very hot siege of that place, declared he would rather perish in the flames than surrender!

Dec. 4. On Friday last the duke of Richmond waited on his majesty at St. James's, and after the business of the day was over, presented to his majesty for his approbation two musquets of a new invention, which had been laid before the ordnance board; the principle of them is such that one screw confines lock, stock, and barrel, the latter takes off in the middle: these musquets in time of a march are lighter for a soldier to carry, and more convenient, and both for land and sea service are found to be more eligible than any at present in use, either for land or marine service.

Extract of a letter from an English gentleman at Bombay, dated March 5, 1785.

"On the top of the Malabar hill, in this island, are two round buildings, on purpose to receive the dead bodies of the Parsees, which are placed and remain there till the bones are clean picked by the birds. A guard constantly stands within a small distance of the place, who is very much displeas'd if you offer to disturb the vultures in their preying upon the dead bodies. One afternoon, however, I resolv'd to satisfy my curiosity, so far as to peep into one of these edifices. I perceived several dead bodies, but there was little flesh left upon their bones, and that little was so parch'd up by the excessive heat of the sun, that it did not emit those stinking effluvia which there was reason to expect; it was owing, probably, to the same cause, that the bones were rendered quite black.

"The poor misguided natives prostrate themselves before the sun, under the same notion that the Gentoos reverence an ox or a cow; from the excellent qualities they observe in these created beings, and their great usefulness, each is induc'd to suppose, that the Godhead does most certainly dwell in them; and under this mistaken notion, they kindly pay that homage to the creature, which is only due to the Creator.

"As the Gentoos burn their dead, one would think that the Parsees, who are so fond of worshipping their deity, under the representation of fire, should be desirous of having their dead bodies committed to that element wherein they suppose their Creator principally to reside; but, contrary to this, and to the custom of all nations in the world, they neither burn or bury their dead, but cast them into the open air, to be expos'd to the several elements, where they are soon devour'd by the eagles, vultures, and other birds of prey. The principle they go upon is, that a living man, being compos'd of all the elements, it is but reasonable, after he is dead, that every particular element should receive its own again."

Extract of a letter from an English gentleman at Dantzick, dated November 6, 1785.

"All our late accounts from Warsaw pretend that some sudden commotion is ready to take place in this unfortunate country. Ever since the death of the late king Augustus, in 1763, Poniatowski, his successor, has worn a crown of thorns. His being patronized by the empress of Russia, and his acquiescing in all the demands made by the court of Petersburg, have been long look'd on with a jealous eye by the old nobility, many of whom have thrown themselves under the protection of the grand signior; a proceeding equally impolitic and unnatural. It is this party who have been for some years employ'd in forming confederacies against the king, protestants, and Greek dissident, and who will probably in a short space make Poland a scene of misery, blood, and desolation.

"One of the chiefs in the pre-confederacy is of the ancient house of L—ski. He is said to be about twenty-six years of age, enterprising, learned, sagacious and valiant. The estates of our dukes of

Bedford and Marlborough united do not equal his, which are said to contain 3600 towns and villages. His ancestor, during the late disturbance, maintained 40,000 troops at his own expence. There are several others of the ancient families who are publicly making military arrangements, under pretence of self-preservation."

When the West-India ladies fancy themselves too much tanned with the sun, they scrape off the outside skin of the cuthew cherry-tree, and then rub their faces all over with it. They instantly swell, grow black, and their skin being thus poisoned, will in five or six days time come entirely off the face in large patches as fair as that of a young child. The shell of the stone is porous, in which is lodg'd a sharp aromatic oil of a caustic quality, which, if accidentally taid of, occasions an uneasy sensation for many hours; and this very oil is that which takes off the skin from the face.

The visitation of Mademoiselle D'Eon to this country in the attire feminine, it is hop'd will operate so forcibly, as to induce such ladies who have usurp'd a right of wearing the breeches, to leave them off.

The chevalier D'Eon, on her way from France, stopp'd at Chatham; his ladyship was invit'd on board the Scipio, where an handsome entertainment was provided, and in general received by the garrison with every mark of distinction due to so extraordinary a character. It is well known that the chevalier is no less brilliant and witty in society than courageous in the field.—The conversation turning upon the probability of a treaty of commerce between this country and France being soon finally settled; "in my opinion," said the chevalier, "you go the wrong way to work, why not send to manage so important a business, some of your first rate topers? Crawford drinks nothing but water, it will never do."

A gentleman in the same company expressing a wish that England and France might unite in firm alliance, observing that those two nations would carry every thing before them; "true," said Madame D'Eon, shewing a goat's beard mufF she had in her hand, "this, in such case, would cease to be fashionable, we should easily procure beards far more precious, by shaving close the emperor, the king of Spain, the empress of Russia, and all the Sultan's Seraglio into the bargain."

Nothing but the most egregious dulness could overlook the late expedience of making a new silver coinage. Silver was at no period so cheap. The gain of the public upon this operation of government would have been from three to five per cent.

The profit above mentioned would have been from two to four per cent. net profit, after paying all outgoing; on the expence of the works; we have a right, therefore, to hope, that the minister has treasur'd up a sufficient quantity of this metal, and that the coinage will at a convenient season take place. If not, blame there must be, and it will only remain to shew how it will be mitigated by excuse.

The king of Prussia drinks about two pints of cow's milk every day. He regretted much his incapability of attending a grand review at Potsdam. He propos'd going in an old vehicle which, when indispos'd, he sometimes uses; a machine hung high on shafts by leathern braces; but the physicians put an absolute negative on his intention.

The following is said to be a fact, a gentleman some time ago lost his pocket book on Ludgate-Hill, containing a draught for 100l. accepted by a banker in Lombard-street, and due that day, with some other papers of no value but to the owner. A man passing by at the same time, pick'd it up, and immediately went and received the money, he then went to a lottery-office, and purchased a ticket, changing the 100l. note he had got at the banker's for small ones and guineas. Some few days after inquiring about the fate of his ticket found it had come up 1000l. prize, upon which he returned the gentleman his pocket book, and the 100l. note which fortune had thrown so opportunely in his way.

Dec. 5. Friday a whimsical occurrence took place at one of the rotation offices. A servant girl had procur'd a warrant against a young man for an assault. He was apprehended, and on the examination the girl depos'd, that the youth had several times assault'd her with great violence, and had almost strangl'd her. The magistrate requiring her to be more particular, she said, the fellow was always stealing kisses from her with such violence, that she fear'd if some step were not taken, the consequences might be very serious to her. The magistrate ob-

serv'd, it was rather an uncommon case, and he would recommend a compromise; this being object-ed to, the justice archly observ'd, that the Mosaic law required, that he who had committed a theft should restore the thing stol'n. "Now, (says his worship) a kiss being the thing stol'n, let him return it again, and if that should be deem'd inadequate, let it be returned ten fold, for so the law directs."

The duke of Rutland, in his late progress through a great part of Ireland, has had an opportunity of gently feeling the pulse of that people concerning the commercial propositions, consequently can give ministry certain undeceiving information on that subject, if they will take it, and attend to it. The polite part of the inhabitants of Ireland seem to have made a nice discrimination between the lord lieutenant of Ireland, their viceroy, and the person of the duke of Rutland, with his lovely duchess by his side, on a friendly visitation and party of pleasure among them. With all the compliments, congratulations and honours paid them, we do not hear that any corporation or body of men, connected or unconnected, have attempted to panegyricise the politics of the castle, or the ministry of Great-Britain. Nor do we learn that the volunteers, or other municipal corps of militia, have eagerly press'd forward with their military compliments or honours of war. Therefore the whole amounts to a polite intercourse between their graces and the nobility, gentry, &c. of Ireland, and nothing more.

Dec. 12. A wonderful chain of cells has been discovered within this week under the cellar of a house in Long lane in the Borough. The descent is through a trap door of iron, which long has remain'd unknown; but the house being lately taken by a new tenant, in cleaning the cellar this door was discovered. The width (as far as those who went down have ventur'd) is about twenty feet; the length is unknown, fear having prevent'd the curious from going farther than about half a mile. There seems to have been regular apartments for some religious purposes; as over the entrance of the door there is a large stone cross, and a few little images, particularly one of David playing upon his harp, were found; the whole appears arch'd with large hewn stone, and extends perhaps several miles.—This is no fabricated story, for the purpose of exciting wonder; it is the recital of a fact, which any one who doubts may have prov'd to their satisfaction. Numbers of skulls and parts of human skeletons appear dispers'd throughout the place, and these have not a little intimidat'd the vulgar in the neighbourhood.

Within these few days a humourous and ingenious trick was play'd off in the Borough, by three young fellows of reduced finances. An impulse of hunger, very natural at the approach of dinner hour, brought on a consultation, in which it appearing that the common stock did not exceed half a crown, these geniuses resolv'd to supply the deficiency by address and management. With this intent they went to a tavern, and order'd an excellent dinner, giving particular direction that the landlord should be very attentive to the quality of the caret, of which they call'd for half a dozen. While the waiter was making the necessary arrangements on the table, the guests were employ'd in cajoling him; and after desiring him to be attentive and diligent, one of them gave him the half crown, as an earnest of their future liberality. Poor Dick, thankfull for the present favour, and almost bending under the load of imaginary future ones, never relax'd in his assiduity to the end of the entertainment. This was the time fix'd for the execution of their project, and when the bill was brought they express'd the highest satisfaction at the charge being so reasonable. The only dispute was who should pay the bill, and the utmost alacrity was display'd, by each putting his hand in his pocket, and endeavouring to prevent the others from partaking of the expence. The contention was violent and persevering, till at length, one of them propos'd a scheme for terminating the struggle; he suggest'd that they should blindfold the waiter, and place him in one end of the room, after which they were to withdraw and range themselves at the other, and when Dick advanced, the first man he laid hold of should have the honour of paying. All clos'd with the proposal, and honest Dick became an innocent, but cheerfull party in the imposition. The knowing ones soon perform'd the operation, and while the waiter was groping and tumbling about the room, they took the opportunity to withdraw without ceremony or interruption. The landlord perceiving