

the vicinity of these new and ambitious neighbours, may have an inauspicious effect on the settlements which the English have prosecuted lately with so much vigour among the Bahama Islands, and which promised to be formidable neighbours in time of war, to the trade of Mexico, being exceedingly well situated for privateering, and annoying the intercourse with Cuba.

*Extract of a letter from Petersburg, January 26.*

"A very alarming rumour prevails, which, for the sake of suffering humanity, we most ardently wish may prove premature and unconfirmed. It is reported that the plague has lately broke out at Otchakow; this is strengthened by letters from Poland, which assert, that the dreadful scourge hath already reached as far as Balta, a Turkish town on the frontiers of the above kingdom. Whether this melancholy piece of intelligence be exaggerated or no, it cannot be entirely destitute of some sort of foundation. In such cases, mere probability should awaken the attention of government, and, in consequence of the report, every precaution is now taken by our ministry to cut off all communication with Persia. Letters from Vienna also assert, that the plague had manifested itself at Mohilow; this we take to be a mistake in the name instead of Mierof, where it is but too true that the pestilential disorder hath already been fatal to an incredible number of inhabitants."

An eel of most extraordinary dimensions was lately caught on the coast of Norfolk, and presented to a gentleman in Norwich, who has caused it to be colared. It measured five feet ten inches in length, was nine inches thick, two feet round, and weighed between fifty and sixty pounds.

Feb. 23. It has been remarked, that in all distant engagements, whether by land or sea, the French have the better of the English; and to what is that circumstance owed, unless to the French military and mariners being constantly habituated to the use and management of the ordnance, which are placed in their various forts? The superiority of the French to us in this respect has been found to be very detrimental to us: and whatever can have the tendency of raising us to a level with our enemies, must be deserving of public notice and commendation.

Ministry do well to seize every scheme that promises to bring any increase to our public income. In this view, the efforts which they now make to bring about treaties of commerce with Russia, with France, with America and with Holland, merit high applause.

A copy of the dispatch which the ministry of lord Lansdown received, given them the first intimation of the threatened descent on our coast. It is dated Paris the 28th of May, 1782, and the following is the passage relating to the invasion:

"It is the intent of the ministers, as soon as the Spanish fleet come off Brest, that an attempt shall be made upon your coast, as marshal Broglie has sent a plan to M. de Calries of the coast about Plymouth, to the westward, in the bay called Port Wrinkle, or Whiteford Bay. This is the place they intend to land at, as there are not any batteries there, and they mean to destroy the dock-yard of Plymouth."

On the receipt of this letter a cabinet council was held, and the duke of Richmond, accompanied by two engineers, went down to Plymouth, and found the survey to correspond exactly with the plan communicated to the French court.—That plan and survey was made by the young Clonard, and sent by him to Broglie. The duke of Richmond from that time has taken up the opinion that fortifications are necessary.

About ten days ago, as a farmer's servants were digging gravel in Oxfordshire, they discovered several human skeletons, which encouraged them to enlarge the pit, in doing of which upwards of thirty were found.—How they came to be deposited on that spot, cannot as yet be accounted for. An old sword was found by the side of one of the skeletons, which intimates as if they had been slain in battle—probably in some skirmish during the troubles of king Charles I.

March 2. Two valuable American vessels, the one bound from St Ubes for Philadelphia, the other of Bolton, have been captured by the Algerines. The captains Stephen and O'Bryan, have sent letters to the American states, imploring redemption, but to no purpose; they therefore share an equal fate with others who have presented petitions to no effect. The dey's demands are too exorbitant; his heralds, in form, have declared war against the states.

The Spaniards have at last patched up a peace with the Algerines. They have stipulated to give them six frigates to cruise in the Western Ocean, and to redeem all their slaves for three millions of dollars. But exclusive of this, they are to pay, or have paid, a very large sum of money.

March 3. We are informed that the emperor of Morocco has declared himself an enemy to the United States, and has sent four frigates as far southward as the Madeira islands. This is an additional difficulty which they have to struggle with, equal to that of the Algerines.

March 4. We are informed that a discovery has lately been made, which cannot fail of being highly interesting to the learned world, particularly to astronomers. A lady amusing herself with looking at the moon through M. Herschel's large telescope, perceived a spot of an uncommonly ruddy colour in

the disk of that planet, which she made some gentlemen present, and particularly Mr. Herschel, remark. On examination it was concluded to proceed from a volcano; a conjecture which seems to be favoured by the prodigious height of the lunar mountains, that known to astronomers by the name of Mount St. Catharine, having (by a very ingenious method for taking the altitude of so distant an object) been found to be not fewer than eleven miles perpendicular height. If this discovery be real, it will decide in the affirmative the question which has so long divided astronomers, whether the moon has an atmosphere, it being impossible for fire to subsist without air.

*Extract of a letter from Hermslandt, January 10.*

"We have here a fresh proof of the degree of perfection to which unfortunate persons deprived of sight, can carry the sense of feeling. A blind man of this city has employed himself in a joinery work, which he executes with such art as to astonish the best workmen; the latter doubted a long time whether he did it himself, and imagined he only lent his name to some able workman, who made use of this means to dispose of his work more readily, and to greater advantage, and they made him work under their inspection. The magistrate, on their testimony, has permitted the blind man to continue his work, and dispose of it for his own advantage."

*Extract of a letter from Leghorn, February 8.*

"A large Spanish ship of 16 guns, laden with masts, yards, cordage, and other naval stores, bound to Carthage, was lately captured within a day's sail of that place, by an Algerine rover, after a smart engagement of several glasses, in which a great number of the Barbarians were killed and wounded; amongst the former was their captain, a very daring fellow. The Spaniards behaved with great bravery during the whole of the action, and cleared the decks of the infidels three times."

*Extract of a letter from Fulding, February 24.*

"The Werwagig, Snock, Orange, Zeal, and Thetis guardships are now so disposed at the mouth of the Scheld, as entirely to block up the entrance of that river here, according to an order of the states, which disposition will be continued till the new forts are built. It is sincerely wished, that these regulations may not hereafter prove a fresh subject of litigation."

*Extract of a letter from Cadix, February 2.*

"Arrived the Juno, Mayne, from the Havanna: she passed by an Algerine frigate and a Genoese armed ship, which had just began to engage with each other: the Juno was stopped by four Algerine corsairs at different times, but finding her English property, they suffered her to pass free."

*Extract of a letter from Lisbon, February 4.*

"The commercial confederacy have resolved on a general attack of all such powers on the Barbary coast, who refuse satisfaction when any of our vessels are captured. Two or three of the European courts who had been officially applied to join, have excused themselves on an opinion, that the extirpation of these renegades is impracticable; for which reason they are renewing their treaties with them: this may hurt the cause in which her most faithful majesty has so deeply engaged."

March 6. The plague continues with little variation at Smyrna. It increased at Constantinople the last fortnight; and the intelligence from Wallachia mentions that it is making a considerable progress in that country.

March 8. As a proof of the truth of the assertion, that the emperor's edict in Flanders would materially affect the trade and manufactures of this country, several persons have lately returned from the Low Countries, after visiting Orlend, Brussels, Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, &c. without having disposed of a single article; many of them indeed not having opened their packages, after an expensive journey, while they had the mortification to see the French dealers, and even Dutch, dispose of their wares in the public fairs and markets at the usual prices, and sneering at the disappointment of our countrymen, some of whom would have fain passed off their wares for French, and had even, by means of bribes, obtained French passes and licences; but in this they did not succeed, since they were much underfold by our Gallic neighbours. Upon this account many have entered into a resolution of giving up this branch of traffic, after having inquired of the English minister at Brussels, and of persons in the departments of government at home, who give no hopes of better days, or any elevation of the emperor's placards.

March 9. The elector of Hanover's accession to the Germanic league, must be attended with very serious consequences to this country. Whenever the emperor hears of Frederick's death, he will attempt Bavaria, and the British nation is then involved in all the horrors of war. That this is the opinion of Sir R. Murray Keith, our ambassador at Vienna, is well known to ministers. Sir Robert, when he heard of the elector's accession to the league, wrote home that the emperor was in the utmost chagrin, and vowed that he would henceforward treat the English in a different manner to what he formerly did.

Colonel Tarleton goes out to India with lord Cornwallis. Experience will perhaps render him prudent; and though he exchanged the laurel he won in America, for the myrtle of Venus Mercurius in England, he may, perhaps, snatch a new

wreath from the turban of Tippoo Saib, the great mogul, or a nabob.

Sir John Burgoyne is known to have suffered much in health from his late affair; and some time ago, he underwent the severe operation common in India, of having his liver scraped.

A confirmation has been received in town, since Saturday, of the engagement mentioned in the papers, between a Genoese and Algerine armed vessel with this additional circumstance, that the two ships when abreast of each other within pistol shot, began a most dreadful conflict, when the Genoese blew up, and every soul perished. The Algerines (according to the account received) shouted on the explosion, "Ecco i Genovesi!"—There go the Genoese.

March 10. The accession of Hanover to the Germanic league will not only not involve the continent in a war, but prevent its being so involved. Had no combination been formed against the house of Austria, who knows to what extremities its ambition might have carried it? As matters now stand, the power of Prussia, aided by that of several respectable and potent princes, is set in opposition to that of the emperor. The energy of these confederates will, in no degree, be impaired by the demise of the Prussian king (an event for which some of our countrymen seem to wish) as prince Henry of Prussia is universally acknowledged to be equal to his brother in regard to the knowledge of government, and superior as to skill in military enterprises.

How very different is the attention which has been paid to the enlargement of the royal navy, since the conclusion of the late war, from that which was paid to the same object after the conclusion of the preceding war! When the French, following up the blow given by the Americans, sent out their fleets against us, we had hardly a line of battle ship in complete repair, though the suspicions we entertained of the fidelity of the French had led ministry to bestir themselves a little. At this day the greatest exertions are unremittingly made in our dockyards.

The king and his council are aware of the high advantage of maintaining our station among the more eminent naval powers, and the first lord of the admiralty is both disposed and qualified to accomplish every measure which they can recommend.

Authentic letters received yesterday from Brussels, dated March 1, confirm the accounts of the imperial edict having produced the most fatal consequences on the importation of our finer steel manufactures and coarser hardwares.

Governor Penn is soon to go out to America in the character of ambassador and plenipotentiary from the British court. It is supposed, that his appointment to this great office is to be attributed to the influence of lord Lunford, between whom and the governor there has long subsisted the strictest and most intimate friendship.

*Extract of a letter from Cadix, February 18.*

"Our coasts, as well as those of Portugal are very much infested by Algerine cruisers; they are exceedingly troublesome, and plunder the ships of all nations that fall in their way, except the British, which pass without interruption. The latter end of last month an Algerine xebec, of 22 guns, took a large ship, richly laden, under Russian colours, at the Straits mouth, after a sharp contest, and sent her to Algiers. The captain and crew, with several passengers are also sent into slavery, except one English gentleman, whom the Barbarians set on shore at Gibraltar."

SHELburne, (N. S.) April 27.

*Extract of a letter from Windsor, Nova Scotia, April 6.*

"I heard a letter from London read to-day, wherein it mentioned, that a treaty of amity and commerce is like to take place between Great-Britain and the states of America, and that several gentlemen were making interest for the consanguinity; money exceeding plenty in the exchequer, and the noble Pitt shining in the character of minister; particularly in his mode of taxation and economy; the duty on tea, though much lessened, brings in a third more revenue than it ever did, and the additional tax on windows, lands and houses, raises very considerably. In short, they find themselves rich enough to do any thing: The funds are continuing to raise daily.

"While writing this I am informed an official letter is arrived at Halifax, from lord Sydney, that general Carleton is to come out governor-general; that he is to reside four months of the year at Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick, and the remainder in Canada."

NEW-YORK, May 3.

*Extract of a letter from New-Jersey, April 15.*

"In most of the counties of this state the raising of flax has been so totally discontinued since the conclusion of the late war, that now, after being convinced of the necessity of producing that valuable article among ourselves, the farmers cannot command a peck of flaxseed to sow for the ensuing season. I am sorry to say the sound of the spinning wheel has, of late years been but rarely heard among us, and that both matrons and maids, instead of attending the duties of the distaff, as formerly, are employed in talking politics, and haranguing on the necessity of a free

importation of gau not: p: e: y: d: i: c: o: u: indeed!"

Notwithstanding the predations of the can trade, there is part of the intelligence well-wishers in England sufficiently obvious in the authority with the upon the credulous try, who think not

PHILADELPHIA

By recent letters count of the cessation mature; but that that something of England and Spain Gibraltar, which very favourable place it may prove United States, but several important

*Extract of a letter from Jamaica, in 25-d* island precipitately spoke a vessel but was seized in Jamaica

*Extract of a letter from his friend in*

"The Portuguese war, have driven and another (qu coast clear. so that to Lisbon."

SAVANNAH

A correspondent who knew but little publicly the middle of some dollars, they a present had the so cut out, and for of a dollar: And Philadelphia, that from the people hence, have been to the amount of Will the people be satisfied?

*Extract of a letter from*

"Two ships a under the auspice privilege, for the of 400 tons each majesty has procured ships to exercise two will fail and however, constant present ships are

*Extract of a letter from*

"The new p Turkish dominion followers every ment is, no doubt drink wine, which home. Sacrificing forest way to gain hold truth from the dependent electors

ANNA

On Friday last captain Andrews, On the 7th inst of Philadelphia brought dispatches intelligence, viz. March, the host together with the vately withdrew Miami—That fe both above and within four miles That from threaten dians, an attack under this idea, Fort-M'Intosh— with provisions, the body of the were lately seen tion could not be chiefs had been in son at Niagara.

On Monday the troops, raised for Western frontier experienced officer Philadelphia for and make a ve doubtless he co ment to the co Captains Ferguson M'Curdy, of t companies. W Jersey, under ca March in a few