said spirits out of any house, building or place, wherein the same are deposited, without payment, or security for the payment, of the duties thereupon, or shall falsely or fraudulently mark any cask, case or vessel, contrary to any of the said provisions, or shall embezzle the public money, or otherwise be guilty of fraud in his office, such supervisor or other officer shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of one thousand dollars, and upon conviction of any of the said offences shall forfeit his office, and shall be disqualified for holding any other office under the United States.

[*To be continued.*]

VIENNA, *January* 9.

Taking of Ismael.

AN express from the Ukraine, has just brought the important news that Ismael has been taken by assault on the 22d of December.

Almost the whole garrison, consisting of thirteen thousand men, were massacred.

General Suisarow had, immediately on his arrival, so concerted his plan of operation, that in a few days every thing was ready for an assault; his army was divided into six columns, with orders to form the attack in different places, all at once.

For a long time the Turks defended themselves with obstinate bravery, but they were at length obliged to give way, as they had done at Oczakow. The scene was terrible and bloody: cut to pieces by the conquerors, particularly by the Cossacks, they had not time to ask for quarter, which however would not have been granted.

According to the accounts received of this astonishing victory, at least 12,000 of the Turks were killed: the only surviving people, to whom quarter was at length given, are the commandant, a Tartarian prince and about four hundred men, who were reserved to witness the bravery and triumph of their enemies.

It is remarkable that all the conquests which the Russians have made over the Turks, have been obtained either without resistance, or have been attended with the most horrid butchery.

This is a natural consequence of the terror which the Russian name strikes into the breasts of the Turkish soldiers, and which the conquerors have taken pains to inspire and to keep up.

The dread of indiscriminate slaughter operates on the Turks so forcibly, that on several occasions, they have not even attempted to resist.

The grand vizier, instead of opposing his forces to those of the Russians in defence of Ismael, as he boasted it was his intention, fled towards the defiles of Mount Hæmus, where he is likely to suffer much for want of provisions during the winter.

In these circumstances, the negotiations carrying on for the support of the Turkish empire, daily verging to ruin, require more circumspection than ever.

LONDON, *January* 21.

Among the multitude of anecdotes to which the Bastile has given birth, there is one that has been told with assurances and circumstances of truth, and that merits relation.

A gentleman and his servant, newly become inhabitants of that gloomy fortress, were often awakened from their reveries by a rapping against the vaulted floor of their dungeon from the cell beneath. After some time, they remarked that the number of strokes was invariably 24.

They had wearied conjecture in endeavouring to divine the meaning of this regularity, when at last it struck the gentleman that 24 being the number of letters in the French language, it might be intended to indicate a mode of communication, by rapping the number of strokes corresponding in the series of the alphabet, to each letter wanted.

Immediately availing himself of the idea, he asked, *Que etes vous?* Who are you?—and was answered, *Vous m'aves devine*, You have discovered my meaning. From that time they continued to communicate their sorrows to each other, as far as so tedious a way of conversation would admit till one day the prisoner beneath gave the one above to understand, that being tired of his existence, he was at that time going to hang himself.

It is easy to conceive with what anxiety the gentleman and his servant waited for the approaching visit of the keeper. When he came, they begged him to go down; and if in time, prevent the person below from being his own executioner. He directly went away, but instead of returning as they hoped, to tell them the event, he sent a guard to conduct them to another part of the prison; nor could all their entreaties ever prevail on their sullen guardians to satisfy their curiosity as to the fate of their fellow prisoner, so great was the silence systematically observed in that sepulchre of the living.

Jan. 24. The affairs of Europe are upon the eve of a crisis, and the empress has now most decidedly to contend, if she has temerity enough, with a quintruple alliance, from whom she will be competent to obtain a peace on the terms of the Reichenbach treaty only.

The Dutch, it appears by the last mails, are indefatigable in their preparations to co-operate with England in every measure that will be found necessary, in the spring, to adopt. Their fleets will find more work for those of Russia, than the fleets of Sweden did, and the armies of Prussia and Poland will form an insurmountable barrier to the ambition of Catharine, and Potemkin.

Jan. 25. The story is again propagated of the Spaniards having laid an additional duty, amounting nearly to a prohibition, on our woollens; the first of this report was six weeks back, and was noticed by Mr. Fox in the house of commons—it was immediately done away by Mr. Pitt, who declared that no such duty or regulation had taken place; it is extremely probable, therefore, that it has now no better foundation than it had been first propagated, and particularly as the opposition papers have not even ventured to give it in any positive and exulting manner.

Extract of a letter from the camp at Coimbatore, within 150 miles of Tippoo Sultan's capital, Seringapatam, dated 30th of August, 1790.

"The war with Tippoo has been commenced these three months past, although nothing of consequence has yet been done, except the capture of this part of his country, of which we made ourselves masters, with little opposition; Tippoo having retired with his army, through the mountains into the interior part of his kingdom, where it is supposed he will make a stand. We remain encamped here on account of the rains; when they are over, we shall march for his capital, Seringapatam, which, it is said, is strongly fortified. It is only 150 miles from this capital, but between us and it, there is a large chain of mountains through which our army must march by one narrow pass, which, if well defended, may give us much trouble. There is here encamped, the finest army that ever any European power employed in India. It consists of four king's regiments, and one regiment of the company's Europeans, 12 battalions of Seapoys, four regiments of native cavalry, and the 19th regiment of light dragoons, three battalions of European artillery, with 70 field-pieces, besides a battering train. Our camp is upwards of two miles in length, and is a noble sight. The troops are in high health and great spirits."

The pope hold frequent conferences in the vatican on the subject of the ecclesiastical affairs of France: he seems very undecided; neither the prevailing principles of the court of Rome, nor the advice of the French, who are now in that capital, will lead him to agree to the new order of things; which, should it be adopted in all catholic countries, would reduce the pontifical power to nothing, and leave the pope only the naked title of the head of the church: on the other hand, it is not at present politic in the Holy See, nor is it agreeable to the personal character of Pious VI. to use harsh and violent measures.

Jan. 27. Further particulars of the capture of Ismael:—It was on the 22d of December that this fortress was taken by assault. In order to assure success, the invincible Suwarrow led out the army in person.

The fierce valour of the Ottomans sustained the charge with obstinacy; preferring the known severities of the victors to the safety of desertion and flight. The slaughter was of course savage and undistinguishing. Quarter was not asked by the conquered; nor, if it had been, would the conquerors have granted it.

About 12,000 Turks are imagined to have perished in this dreadful carnage—the Pacha, a Tartar prince, and about 400 men, are all the survivors of this devoted garrison. Events like this make humanity shudder at the mention of monarchs, and their mischievous ambition.

Such terror does the very name of the Russian troops excite in the Ottoman army, that the grand vizier has shrunk from his once boasted resolves, and, fearing worse than death an encounter with Potemkin, secured his troops in the accessible defiles of Mount Hæmus, uncertain whether sustenance sufficient may not be totally cut off, and his whole power left to perish amid the rigorous hostility of the winter season.

So abased is the crescent of the once invincible Ottoman.

It has been in contemplation to cultivate sugar in the Sandwich Islands, which lie midway in the great Pacific Ocean, between the northwest coast of America and Port Jackson, in New South Wales, which are very nearly in the same parallel of latitude as Jamaica, and these isles are both very numerous and remarkably fertile. The removal of the convicts from New South Wales to so very desirable a situation, and the hopes of being able to supply the Chinese markets with sugars and other tropical products, from which empire they are not very distant, may possibly induce our government to consider this subject with serious attention.

Feb. 11. Letters from Madrid of the 8th of January, mention, that the spirit of reformation has spread so generally through Spain, that the government are taking every precaution to prevent its dreaded consequences: several people have been banished for speaking and writing too freely.

Russian Fleet.

The grand fleet of Russia, which is now arming with all possible dispatch, will consist of 36 ships of the line, carrying from 100 to 65 guns each.

The fleet is expected to be ready for sea, as soon as the ports are free from ice, at which time a light squadron will be completed, consisting of 12 frigates, 30 gallies, 30 chebecks, and 300 armed shallops, on board of which 24,000 sailors and soldiers will be embarked.

Feb. 12. Some dispatches of the last importance were received yesterday from France, which were communicated to his majesty at the Levee.

The substance of these dispatches were last night, reported to be, that the duke of Orleans had been discovered in Paris to act a part which was thought inimical to the new government, and that the populace had, in resentment, put him to an ignominious death. Letters were received in town yesterday, by the way of Dieppe, which are also said to contain this melancholy intelligence. It will give us real pleasure to be able to contradict this tale, and compose the minds of this illustrious personage's friend in London.

KINGSTON, (*Jamaica*) *February* 8.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in St. Anne's, to the printer, February 3.

"This morning our feelings were arrested by a most distressing scene—a signal of distress—a white shirt fastened to a piece of a shallop's mast, about six feet high, was seen about a mile at sea; with the glass we could distinctly discover some people on the wreck of a small vessel, water logged and scarcely visible, the sea breaking over her with great violence—we could give her no assistance, having no craft here that durst venture out; the Juno's two sailing boats being wind bound at Runaway Bay, and captain Hood having no boat but his barge, which no one on shore imagined could have lived in so turbulent an ocean as the wreck was in; captain Hood however, as an encouragement to his barge men, leaped himself into her, to undertake an office of humanity at the great risk of his own life. The spectators, you may suppose, were numerous. Our distress was increased instead of being allured by the bold attempt, for we expected every moment to see the barge and her crew perish—the sea running mountains high and with an incredible violence; but it pleased the Almighty to savour the attempt, and to protect the brave and humane captain and his men. In less than half an hour the barge reached the wreck, which had now driven almost on the roaring Reef—one of her crew had been drowned before captain Hood came up with her, the remaining three were saved, but they were so exhausted that they were not able of themselves to get into the barge, and in two minutes more, but for the assistance of captain Hood, must have perished on the Reef.

"It required great good management to keep the barge from filling, having been obliged to go so near the Reef to rescue the poor wretches from death, that she was among the breakers.

"The wreck it seems was a turtler belonging to Montego-Bay, and had overset about two miles from where the people were taken out of her.

"You may form some idea of the violence of the sea, from the wreck's being overset and righted again several times."

NEW-YORK, *March* 28.

A letter, dated Au Marine (Martinique) 1st February 1791, from a gentleman there, to his friend in Boston, has the following postscript.

"I had almost forgot to mention that Fort Bourbon, in the bay of Fort Royal, which has been this long time besieged by the governor and planters of this island, and which was on the point of surrendering from famine, was relieved two days since by an American brig, which passing in the night the fort and shipping at the mouth of the bay, arrived before morning safe at Fort Royal, with a cargo of flour, &c. should they be taken going out, the captain will most assuredly be put to death, as were the captain and crew of a Spanish schooner, a few days since for the same attempt."

PHILADELPHIA, *March* 29.

Extract of a letter from Dublin, January 1.

"Last week the chief magistrate of Corke (Richard Harris, Esquire) issued near two hundred cards, inviting company to dine with him on Christmas day: The guest till then entertained at the mayoralty house were of the first fashion; but this was of a different description—the distressed house and room keepers. The invitation cards were given to the different clergymen of all persuasions in that city, to distribute among the indigent of their several parishes.

"The tables were laid out with a profusion of every thing good and comfortable; the mayor and a number of gentlemen attended at table, carving and helping the lame and the blind, with an uncommon degree of humanity and charity. After the company had eaten a plentiful supply of victuals, and taken a reasonable quantity of drink, they were severally supplied with a large portion of what remained, and a loaf each.—An example truly worthy of imitation, and which does equal honour to the head and heart of the benevolent entertainer."

By the last arrival from Cape François, we are informed, that 80 of the mulattoes who were active in the late disturbances at St. Domingo, have ben executed.

ANNAPOLIS, *April* 7.

To the President of the United States.

SIR,

WE, the Faculty of St. John's College, beg leave to express the sincere joy which the honour of your presence in our infant seminary afforded us. In common with all those who superintend the education of youth, we must feel a lively gratitude to the defender of liberty, the guardian of his country, and consequently the great patron of literature. But as this seminary was begun since the united voice of free America called you to preside over its most important interests, and ensure to them the continuance of those blessings which your calm foresight and steady fortitude had been the happy means of procuring, it seems in a peculiar manner to look up to you with filial respect. That it dates its birth from this grand æra, which has placed you at the head of fifteen distinct sovereign states united into one mighty republic, is regarded by its friends as an auspicious circumstance and flattering assurance of its future eminence and usefulness. To the friend of virtue and his country, the rise of colleges, where the youth of generations, yet unborn, may be taught to admire and emulate the great and good, must give a heart-felt delight, as they promise perpetuity to the labours and renown of the patriot and hero.

Our earnest prayers, that a kind Providence may constantly watch over you, and preserve a life, long, indeed, already, if measured by deeds of worth and fulness of honours, but too short as yet for your country.

Signed in behalf, and at the request, of the Faculty,

JOHN M'DOWELL, *Pr.*

March 26, 1791.