(XLVIIIth YEAR.) THE (No. 2408.)

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1793.

GENEVA, *December* 8.

THE day before yesterday the Tree of Liberty was planted here with great pomp, and amidst the acclamations of the people, almost under the windows of the hall where the magnificent lords used to assemble, but whose domination draws to an end.

The patriots have assembled in their circles, and sent deputies to that called the Circle of Equality, which has opened a commission of forty citizens, in whom all civil and military powers are vested. This commission has nominated a committee of general safety, one of legislation, and another of war; the latter has actually all the garrison under its command; the syndic of the guards has no other power than a shadow of formality.

MENTZ, *December* 15.

General Custine has declared this city to be in a state of siege, and has retired to it with 40,000 men, who are determined to defend it to the last. The Prussians and Hessians, with the king and the landgrave at the head of about 70,000 men, are surrounding us close, with a formidable train of artillery. Our garrison has made a sortie, in which the Prussians lost 5 men and two cannon.

BERLIN, *December* 15.

Warlike preparations go on here with the utmost alacrity, and every arrangement is making for a most vigorous campaign, to be entered upon as early next spring as possible.

BRUSSELS, *December* 15.

We have just learnt that the day before yesterday an action took place between the French and the Austrians posted on the heights of Verviers. The battle was supported with great valour on both sides, till the Imperialists were obliged to give way, leaving Rechen and Herve to the French, and retiring to the woods of Aix-la-Chapelle. We expect further details.

December 22.

For this week past, convoys and waggons loaded with forage and ammunition have been continually passing through this city, taking the road to Liege.—The vast number of bombs which have been brought hither, are deposited in the environs of the park. Reinforcements of French troops arrive here every day on their way to the army.

To-night or to-morrow general Dumourier is expected in this city, where citizen Camus, a member of the national convention, arrived yesterday from Paris.

Every measure is taken to accelerate the organization of a national assembly in Flanders, the first of which is to decide either an union with Brabant or with France.

We have received intelligence from Ghent, that citizen Alexander Courtois, French agent, is gone into West Flanders, to accelerate the organization of the provisionary representatives, and to prepare for a national assembly. This agent has, in a very short time, formed different clubs, disseminated his principles, made proselytes, and planted the Tree of Liberty.

DUBLIN, *December* 22.

Yesterday warrants were issued against the printers of certain news-papers, for publishing the last address of the society of United Irishmen, calling upon the people to take up arms in order to alter the constitution.

LONDON, *January* 5.

Yesterday letters were received from the Mediterranean, which mention that the French naval force in those seas amount to nineteen sail of the line, and many large frigates: the Republican of 110 guns, is in Toulon Roads.

A letter from the Hague, says, "The war establishment, which has not been on foot here during eight years past, has been now presented by the council of state to their high mightinesses, in which the prince of Orange has proposed the formation of a corps of artillery for the sea service, to be henceforth permanent. His serene highness having nominated as chiefs of that corps admiral count Byland, vice admiral de Kensbergen, and rear-admiral Melvil to be the particular commandant. All the ships of war of the republic have been ordered to be in readiness in March."

It seems to be the prevailing opinion in Paris, that the sentence of the king will be referred by the convention to the re-consideration of the primary assemblies. The next question is—whether the mob, who are intent on his immediate death, will permit such a reference. In either case, a very serious tumult seems certain.

At Paris on Thursday last, the exchange on London, was as low as sixteen and an half, and in all probability it must be lower still.

We have seen letters from Britanny, which observe, that in consequence of many of the commons of that province having declared their wishes for a monarchical form of government, troops have been sent into the different garrisons there to inoculate the inhabitants with republican principles. It is precisely the same thing in Brabant, where all those who vote for the ancient constitution, and testify their repugnance to the French levelling system are persecuted and imprisoned. But this is done for the good and greater liberty of the people, and under the name of supporting the sovereignty!!!

Extract of a letter from Paris, December 30.

"Yesterday the drum was beaten throughout several sections, inviting the citizens to signify their wishes for the death of Louis XVI. The drum was followed by a great number of incendiaries, who were stirring up the people against the national convention, whom they charged with an intention of replacing the tyrant upon the throne.

"The section of Marseilles (of the French theatre) went still further. They were so audacious as to declare themselves in a state of insurrection until after Louis's death, and to resolve, that the Tocsin (alarm bell) should be rung for the murder of the tyrant, and all who should endeavour to prevent his punishment.

"The section of the Thuilleries has offered to impeach the above section, for declaring itself in a state of insurrection, before the council-general of the commons, but these people, being many of them accomplices, refuse to hear the complaint."

Jan. 8. Yesterday captain Barlow, of the Childers sloop of war, arrived at the admiralty, with the following important intelligence:

The Childers cruized off Brest harbour, and Wednesday afternoon, at two o'clock, the Childers stood within three quarters of a mile of three batteries in Brest harbour. Her colours were not then hoisted; the battery on the starboard side fired a shot, which went over her. The Childers then hoisted the British colours, and the fort hoisted the national colours, with a red pendant over the ensign, which was answered by the other two forts.

The Childers was then driven by the tide of flood, within half a mile of the forts, and captain Barlow was obliged, it being calm, to have her oars out, to keep her from drifting too far in: immediately a cross heavy fire began by signal, from the three batteries. Fortunately a breeze of wind sprung up, and the Childers made sail. She being a small object, only one shot hit her, which providentially hit one of her guns, and split it in three pieces, without injuring a man. The pieces were collected and slung, and the shot weighed forty-eight pounds. The Childers arrived safe at Fowey.

Extract of a letter from Paris, December 30.

"Notwithstanding the resolution passed in three sections, to declare themselves in a state of insurrection if Louis is not put to death, this capital continues to be very quiet, the friends of tranquillity and justice are now sufficiently numerous and powerful to overawe the abettors of anarchy.

"There is no longer a doubt that the judgment of Louis will be referred to the primary assemblies of the republic, in order to give more regularity and dignity to that judgment which Europe is expecting with the most anxious impatience. The issue of this interesting affair is therefore, still uncertain; it is thought that most of the departments, if the decision is left to them, will incline to banishment. The question of the appeal, will be decided to-morrow, or the day after, at farthest.

"Dumourier is here, but the object of his journey was not to rest, nor the motive discontent, as have been reported; for he is very active with the executive council in forming plans for the future operations of the army.

"The convention was closed by several opinions for and against Louis XVI. The majority were for the appeal to the primary assemblies.

"Joel Barlow, an American, the author of "Advice to Privileged Orders," is elected a member of the convention for the department of Mont-Blanc.

"The council-general of the commune have resolved that the commissioners on duty at the temple, shall make no more reports of what personally concerns the prisoners in the tower. We shall be deprived, in consequence of that resolution, of many curious particulars concerning that unhappy family. Those reports, it is thought, had raised a tender sympathy in the minds of the people inconsistent with the republican severity.

"The sitting this morning was opened by one of those motions in which M. Manuel incessantly nibbles at religion. He proposed that a decree should pass to prevent any sect of religion from celebrating the 6th of January as a festival, commonly called the feast of kings. Several expressions of his speech produced murmurs, and the convention passed to the order of the day.

"The assembly then began to receive petitions, and I expect the sitting will be taken up with them as usual."

NATIONAL CONVENTION of FRANCE,

Wednesday, January 2.

In the sitting of the first instant, the following copy of the memorandum left at the secretary of state's office, for lord Grenville, by Mons. Chauvelin, on the 27th of December, was read in the convention. It was only noticed at length in one of the French Gazettes of the succeeding day, which we, in this instance, are so unfortunate as not to subscribe to.

"THE undersigned minister plenipotentiary of France has the honour to communicate to lord Grenville the instructions which he has received from the executive council of the French republic, with orders to lay them before his Britannic majesty's secretary of state, for the department of foreign affairs, in case he should think that he could not speedily enough obtain an interview with the minister.

"The French government, by continuing, since the recal of lord Gower from Paris, to leave at London a minister plenipotentiary, though they gave to his Britannic majesty an unequivocal proof of the desire they had to remain in good intelligence with the British court, and to see all those clouds dissipated, to which events, necessary and inseparable from the internal regimen of France, seemed then to have given birth. The intentions of the executive council of France towards England, have never ceased to be the same, but they cannot see with indifference the public conduct which the British ministry observe at present towards France. It is much to be regretted, that they have perceived in this conduct an indisposition which they still force themselves not to believe. They think it a duty, however, which they owe to the French nation, not to leave it much longer in a state of uncertainty in which it has been thrown by several measures lately adopted by the British government—an uncertainty in which the British nation must share, and which must be equally unworthy of both. The executive council of the French republic have consequently authorised the minister of France at London, to demand with openness of the ministers of his Britannic majesty, whether France ought to consider England as a neutral or hostile power, and have particularly charged him to obtain on this point a definitive answer. But in demanding from the ministers of his Britannic majesty an open and candid explanation of their intentions towards France, the executive council do not wish that the smallest doubt should exist respecting the dispositions of France towards England, and of its desire to remain at peace with it. They even wish to answer previously to all those reproaches which may be thrown out against France, in order to justify England. Reflecting on the reasons which might determine his Britannic majesty to break with the French republic, the executive council can see them only in a false interpretation, given perhaps to the decree of the national convention of November 19. If the British ministry are really alarmed by that decree, it can only be for want of comprehending the true meaning of it.—The national convention never intended that the French republic should favour insurrections and espouse the cause of a few seditious persons, or in a word, that it should endeavour to excite disturbance in any neutral or friendly country whatever; such an idea would be rejected by the French nation. It cannot, without injustice, be imputed to the national convention.

This decree then is applicable only to those people, who, after having conquered their liberty, may request the fraternity and assistance of the French republic, by a solemn and unequivocal expression of the general will. France not only ought, and wishes to respect the independence of England, but that also of its allies, with whom it is not at war. The undersigned therefore has been charged to declare formally, that France will not attack Holland whilst that power confines itself, on its part, within the bounds of strict neutrality. The British government being thus assured, respecting these two points, no pretence for the least difficulty can remain, but on the question of opening the Scheld—a question irrevocably decided by reason and justice, of little importance in itself, and on which the opinion of England, and perhaps even of Holland, are too well known to render it difficult to make it seriously the sole cause of a war. Should the British ministry, however, embrace this last motive to induce them to declare war against France, would it not then be probable that their private intention was to bring about a rupture at any rate, and to take advantage at present of the most futile of all pretences, to colour an unjust aggression, long ago meditated?

"In this fatal supposition, which the executive council rejects, the undersigned would be authorised to support with energy the dignity of the French people, and to declare with firmness, that a free and powerful nation will accept war, and repel with indignation an aggression so manifestly unjust, and so unprovoked on their part. When all these explanations necessary to demonstrate the purity of the intentions of