

'lency, and do every thing in our power for the service of his majesty, and the welfare of the people we represent.

'It is with great satisfaction, that we hear from your excellency, that we are in a state of peace and tranquility with the Indian nations around us, and we hope this good understanding will be kept up and continued.

WILLIAM BULL, jun. Speaker.

January 23, 1747-8.

M A D R I D.

October 2. A French frigate, coming from the Mississippi, having been chased off Cape Finisterre by a Squadron of 10 English men of war, made all the sail he could to get into a small port of Galicia; but the captain finding himself likely to fall into the hands of the enemy, and having two hours sail of them, he larded his cannon, rigging, and all the cargo he was able, and on the approach of the English within cannon-shot, blew up his ship. The English then talked about, and the French captain began to make an inventory of every thing he had landed; but the Spanish commissary of the marine inspired him the pains, by seizing the whole under pretence that the frigate was an illicit trader, and the goods contraband; and founded his pretence on some chests of pistols, paid for French merchandise. The French officer protested, that the Spaniards who go to the Mississippi, never pay for what they buy but in that specie, which was very current there, and that the said chests were remitted by some inhabitants of the Mississippi; but the commissary paid no regard to these allegations. Complaints have been made to the bishop of Rennes by the captain; but the minister of sea affairs affirms, that the confiscation of the effects is valid, because the frigate touch'd at the Havannah: To this the captain replied, That it was only to take in water and fresh provisions. This affair makes a great noise, but it is thought the French ambassador will occasion the seizure to be annulled, and cause every thing to be restored to the captain.

Extract of a Letter from the Hague, dated Nov. 3.

There are some people here who continue loudly to cry up the pacific dispositions of the French king, and who endeavour to demonstrate that they are sincere, and that this prince is weary of the war: This may possibly be the case, but there are many others who don't believe a word of it, because they know that his generals and ministers, who increase their wealth and power by a continuance of it, have not yet spilt blood, nor laid waste countries enough. The government here seem to think with these last, and are therefore taking vigorous resolutions; but every thing is yet executed with excessive slowness, and the salutary councils of the stadtholder are so often traversed by bad subjects, who look upon themselves to be in a desperate way, in having no longer the management of certain affairs, that every thing goes on in a crossgrained manner. So that those who wish well to their country, are afraid, that with the best intentions in the world, and the millions with which the fifth penny will fill the treasury, we shall as usual be too late in the field next spring; and that after the two vigilant Counts Saxe and Lowendahl shall have given some blow, the government will perhaps about the middle of November, send people to raise new regiments, or to negotiate them. In these cases, when will they be compleat, or when be able to arrive at the place where they are wanted? Thus talk the true patriots.

It's generally believed that his Britannic majesty, their High Mightinesses, and the King of Sardinia, are desirous of peace, but nobody thinks the same of the court of Vienna. The answer which the Empress Queen has just given to the proposition of an overture of a congress at Aix la Chapelle, being so loose and indefinite, that it determines nothing. Reflections are made too upon the circumstance of the choice of this same city of Aix to be the general quarters of the Austrian commanders, who, we are told, will place a garrison of three battalions, which by no means seems to agree with the assembly of a congress, but quite contrary. For if this place had been actually pitched on for the ministers of the powers of war to meet at, Count Bathiani would probably have established his quarters at Limbourg.

Extract of a Letter from a Person of Distinction at Paris, to a Minister at the Hague, dated December 18.

"For a considerable time together, the Abbe de la Ville, and the first clerks of the other secretaries of state, took care as much as in them lay, to suppress a great number of pamphlets which they received from time to time from Holland, and the ericisms which have been made upon the two declarations of his most Christian majesty, sent to the States-General by the

Abbe de la Ville. But since the declaration of their High Mightinesses, all these writings have been delivered to the Maquis de Puyseux, with the names and places of abode of the authors of them. The Count de Maurepas, and all the ministers, have likewise copies of the treatises; and in less than ten days these pieces are become so public, that the domestics find them in the antichambers. But as this has extremely irritated the ministry, and offended all the great ones, all these pamphlets have been suppressed, as well at Versailles as at Paris, where the lieutenant of the police causes strict search to be made at the houses of those who are suspected of having such writings in their custody.

The levies are raising with incredible success throughout the kingdom, the subjects being so weary of the war, that in order to put the king into a condition of finally overcoming the allies, and of forcing them to a peace, most of the manufacturers enlist for five or six years. As the campaign in the Low Countries will be brilliant, and consist of numerous armies, M. d'Argenson abounds in petitions and solicitations of officers of all ranks to be employ'd there.

The force of the crown by land, sea, and in the Indies, which amounted at the beginning of this year, to 520,000 men, is going to be considerably augmented, and will, it's assured, the next year, consist of 654,000 men, comprehending therein the Gardes Cotes, and the Mareschauxes of the kingdom, which are not now, as heretofore, under the province of the Count de Maurepas, but under the Count d'Argenson, minister of war.

L O N D O N, October 29.

It is said, that the French had above three hundred men killed in one Ship, in the late Engagement with Admiral Hawke.

Letters from Francfort say, that several Prussian officers are arrived there, and in places adjacent, to raise recruits; the king their master having given a strict charge that there be no man wanting by New-Year's day in any of the regiments in Prussia, Pomerania, and the Marche of Brandenburg.

We hear that the Republic of Holland will take a great number of the Scotch into their pay, and that they intend to have a Highland regiment, which is to be clothed in the Highland dress.

October 31. We hear that Admiral Boscawen has been promoted as a major general of the land forces that go on board the fleet; and it is said that orders are sent down to Portsmouth for a court-martial to be immediately held for the trial of Captain F—.

November 3. We learn from Ratibon, and other places of the empire, that an opinion strongly prevail, of some powerful princes having a design to lay hold of the present conjuncture, and secularizing a great part of the Ecclesiastical territories in Germany, in the same manner, and for the same reasons that a half of them were actually secularized precisely a Century ago by virtue of the treaties of Westphalia. As this, without question, is a point of very great importance, both to the civil and religious rights of the princes of Germany, it makes already a great deal of noise, will occasion a most vigorous opposition, and will probably engage all the Ecclesiastical sovereigns more strongly than ever to the house of Austria. But notwithstanding this, as the project is in the hands of powers that are not accustomed to let fall easily what they have once undertaken, it is thought, that in spite of all the obstacles it may meet with, it will be attempted and pushed to the utmost.

On Saturday an order for 500l. clear of all fees and deductions, was sent by his Majesty to the treasury, to be paid to Captain Moore, for bringing the good news of the late victory at sea of the French fleet, obtained by the fleet under Admiral Hawke.

And we hear he will have the command of the Kent, and be appointed commodore on an expedition of great importance.

There is advice, that a Spanish ship of 200 tons, laden with timber from Corunna, is taken in her passage by the English.

The fleet under the command of Admiral Chambers, will consist of one ship of 80 guns, three of 74 guns, two of 60 guns, two of 50, and three of 40, besides frigates.

The Culloden man of war, lately launched at Deptford, is ordered to be victualled with all expedition, to join Admiral Chambers at Plymouth.

Yesterday morning the agreeable news came, that his Majesty's ship the Suffolk, Capt. Pratten, which has been so long missing, was arrived at Spithead.

Yesterday came advice, that the Hardwick, Capt. ——— taken and brought into Plymouth, the Queen of St. Maloes privateer.—She was formerly his Majesty's sloop the Hornet, and some time since fell into the hands of the French, together with a ship laden with stores.