

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

WEDNESDAY, September 14, 1748.

AMSTERDAM, May 31.

Extract of a Letter from a Person of Distinction at Paris, to a Minister at the Hague, May 29.

“ HE prince of Cobu, who speaks his sentiments very frankly upon all occasions, is so dissatisfied with the signing and purport of the preliminary article, that three or four days ago he said in a public company; ‘More than the sovereigns of

the world are very much to be complained of, when they do not make peace or war from their own judgments, and when they suffer themselves to do either by the direction of their secretary. It was certainly our business to have concluded a peace with her majesty of Hungary; that would have been gaining a very great point, because the Dutch must necessarily have come into it without treaty; and even the English would have found themselves obliged to furl their sails. We should have reaped great advantages from each of those occurrences, which must infallibly have come to pass, and the peace would have become general, and as advantageous to the house of Bourbon, as glorious to the crown of France. Instead of which, as things have been managed, we have suffered high disgrace, so great, that was one even to look back to the original of the French monarchy, an event could not be found out more dishonourable to the nation, than this of signing the preliminaries. ‘Tis very true, this peace has been very dear bought; ‘tis great pity but his majesty had received the price of it, in order to have indemnified himself, and succoured the poor, every body would then have had a share; but all is gone to make a duke of Courland, which does not in the least interest any Frenchman. It was certainly too much to sacrifice more than 464,000 men, and 845 millions of livres, without gaining a single inch of ground for either France or her allies.”

Hague, June 4. In the night between Friday and Saturday, the whole province of Friesland rose up in arms, every body in their own district. They began their operations by demanding, that the government should be established upon its antient footing, and such as it was at the time of the union of Utrecht, and that the farming of taxes should be entirely abolished, to the end that commerce might be free as heretofore, and without monopoly; reserving to themselves the liberty of exhibiting their other grievances; and in consequence of these proceedings, they pulled down and destroyed all the offices of farmers, and their deputies and clerks, and threw their books of accounts into the sea and canals, together with the registers and other papers, after having torn them in pieces. They insist upon it, that the authority of the greatmen, or bailiffs, who govern their peasants like slaves, shall be reduced to its antient bounds. In short, every body foresees that they will demand, that the succession to the stadtholdership, which is already hereditary in this province in the male line, shall be extended to the females, in the same manner as it is settled in Holland. It is not doubted but they will succeed in all their demands, being assured of assistance from the peasants of Groeningen.

Iurin, May 25. According to the relation of the expedition to Corfica, which the king has received from the chevalier de Camiana, our troops expected to be masters of Bastia by the 22d, so that we wait for news from thence with impatience. The Corficans expressed great joy at the landing of our men, and were extremely eager to enter upon action. Calvi is blockaded up, and the Genoese have not been able to throw any reinforcements into Bastia, which has only a wall on one side without any ditch.

Dantzick, June 2. It is generally believed that the affairs of the North will very speedily take a new and unexpected turn; which will explain some engagements that have hitherto been thought very mysterious.

Paris, June 3. There is now a talk of reducing a number of men in each company of our troops, and not breaking any

of the corps, because old regiments are more easily recruited than new ones raised.

Amsterdam, June 9. It is said the English and Hannoverians will form a camp of 20,000 men, in the neighbourhood of Nimegue, for the convenience of provisions which are missing there.

Madrid, May 19. The news of the signing the preliminaries, which we received on Friday last, caused a general joy in this city; but the court did not appear to be thoroughly satisfied with certain articles. Madam de Macanas, who went the 3d to Aranjuez with her daughter, in order to throw herself at his majesty's feet, to implore the clemency of his majesty in favour of her husband, had orders immediately to retire, without being permitted to speak to any body, or even to dine at Aranjuez.

Berlin, May 30. The king has sent the necessary instructions to count Podewils, his minister at Vienna, to agree with the ministers of the Imperial court upon the execution of the 20th article of the preliminaries, which relates to the general guaranty of the duchy of Silesia, and the county of Glatz; in consideration whereof the king will concur with the other contracting parties to renew, in the most solemn manner, the engagement of the guaranty of the pragmatic sanction.

Hague, June 14, N. S. Private letters from Paris import, that the duke de Hoescar, the Spanish ambassador, had received the 5th instant a courier from Madrid with important dispatches, and the next day repaired to Versailles to make known their contents; that he had a particular audience of his majesty on the occasion, and afterwards a conference with the marquis de Puyseux; that it was certain this messenger had brought the decisive answer of his catholic majesty concerning the preliminary articles of peace, and that it was conceived in such terms as gave great reason to hope, that it would be immediately followed by another courier with that monarch's act of accession in his pocket.

June 25, N. S. According to private letters from Aix-la-chapelle, the French plenipotentiary is returned there from Paris. The speedy accession of Spain to the preliminaries is said to be out of doubt, his catholic majesty having by letter assured the king of France. That, far from retarding a moment the great work of peace, he should concur therein with joy, in a firm persuasion that every thing requisite with regard to the establishment for the infant Don Philip would be adjusted in the settling of the general treaty.

Aix-la-Chapelle, June 21, N. S. The courier expected back from Madrid, arrived here the 19th instant; and 'tis said the marquis de Soto Mayor, the Spanish plenipotentiary, has received some favourable news about his catholic majesty's accession, with which the public will be acquainted in proper time and place.

Paris, June 17, N. S. Several ships are sailed from our ports to take possession of Louisburg, in virtue of the restitution the king of England has made of Cape-Breton. All the officers of marshal Belleisle's army are set out by express orders of the court. Tho' this circumstance seems to render the peace problematical, yet the greatest preparations are making in this city, for expressing the joy of the people on the return of a peace.

June 18. The duke de Hoescar received the day before yesterday an express from Madrid, with a letter from his catholic majesty for the king, which he had the honour to deliver into his majesty's own hands; and at the same time his excellency communicated unto the king's ministers the dispatches he received by this express. They import, that the king his master was ready to accede to the preliminaries, with some restrictions, which it was thought would not obstruct the speedy conclusion of a peace. The court seems extremely well satisfied with the king of Spain's letter; a grand council has been held at Versailles in the presence of the king, in which the count de St. Sevres