

use levied for the maintenance of the dykes, and for other public uses of the province. In Overysell, the states have been obliged to suppress all the farms to quiet the uneasiness of the people; on the other hand, the hanckes, or people who come yearly out of Germany, and other parts, to make hay, and work at harvest, have assembled in great bodies, and committed several disorders in that province.

*Madrid, June 9.* The king being perfectly satisfied with the conduct of Mr. Wale, marshal de Camp of his majesty's armies, in the negociations with which he is charged at London, his majesty has sent him instructions to continue him at the British court. He is authorised to settle with the ministers of the king of Great-Britain, some articles relating to the freedom of the English navigation in the West-Indies, as likewise certain points which the South Sea company demands. Mr. Wale, at the return of his Britannick majesty from Hanover, will take upon him the character of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary.

*Paris, July 26.* An essay has been made of a gold mine lately discovered in the neighbourhood of Pontoise, which has proved valuable enough to engage the attention of the government: so far as to grant to certain undertakers an exclusive right of working the same, and upwards of 200 workmen are already employed.

*Madrid, July 9.* The court has signified to the magistrates in Andalusia, that they are to consider the orders forbidding all communication with the fortresses of Gibraltar, as void, from the day of the signing the preliminaries; so that the communication with that place is open as in time of full peace.

*Bonn, July 29.* The Emperor and the maritime powers have demanded of his electoral highness of Cologne a passage through his territories for the Russian troops, which are to march into the Low-Countries.

*Aix-la-Chapelle, July 27.* The ratifications of Spain and Genoa of their accession to the preliminaries arriving here the 24th, the exchange was made of them yesterday evening. Since that time there is great agitation amongst the ministers, who labour with great assiduity upon the definitive treaty, which, 'tis assur'd, will be regulated and sign'd in a short time. As to the evacuation of the conquests, they will not take place till after the signing of the treaty, and this expedient has been agreed upon between the principal contracting powers, in order the better to accelerate a general peace.

*Aix-la-Chapelle, July 28.* The marquisses of Soto Major and Doria, plenipotentiaries of Spain and Genoa, having receiv'd the ratification of their respective courts to their accession to their preliminaries, the exchange of them has been made with the plenipotentiaries of France, Great Britain and the states general. It is the opinion of many, that while the publick waits to hear of the entire evacuation of the several conquer'd provinces, it will be agreeably surprized with the news that a definitive treaty is actually sign'd. Certain it is, that since the exchange of the ratifications, the ministers have been continually in motion, and every thing appears with a most favourable aspect.

*Hague, August 2.* The states general have resolv'd to settle the succession to the dignities of captain and admiral general of the union upon the prince of Orange's male and female issue; and a solemn deputation is to be appointed to wait upon his highness with their diploma.

#### L O N D O N

*July 7.* The following, brought by the last mail, is a copy of the king of Spain's act of accession to the preliminary articles of peace, signed by his minister at Aix-la-Chapelle on the 28th ult.

"We Don James Mazones de Limay Soto-Mayor, gentleman of the bedchamber of his Catholick majesty, Field-marshal of his armies, and his minister plenipotentiary to the conferences of Aix-la-Chapelle, declare, that altho' the different motives which have hitherto hinder'd his Catholick majesty's accession to the preliminary articles signed in this city of Aix the 30th of last April, by the plenipotentiaries of his most Christian majesty, his Britannick majesty, and the states-general of the united provinces, still subsist; his catholick majesty, willing to give an evident proof of his sincere desire to see the general tranquility restored, has invested us with full power to accede in his majesty's name, without the least reserve or exception, to the whole tenour and contents of the preliminary articles: And in the same manner accede we likewise to the declaration of the 21st of May, signed by the fore-mentioned ministers, to rectify the errors of dates, and repair the omissions in the 1st article of the preliminaries; and to afford more extension to the 2d of the said articles: as also to the declaration of the 31st of

May, signed by the said ministers, relating further to the 2d article of the preliminaries; all which declarations his catholick majesty accepts in every particular.

We moreover declare, that a cessation of all manner of hostilities will take place by land, between the armies of his catholick majesty and those of the powers with whom he is at war, in the term of three weeks from the date of the present accession, and by sea on the footing of the 16th article. We promise within a month to produce his majesty's ratification in due form of the present declaration, signed with our hand, and to which we have affix'd the seal of our arms.

Done at Aix-la-Chapelle the 28th of June 1748.

Signed, D. J. M. DE LIMAY SOTO MAYOR.

From Aix-la-Chapelle we hear, that the earl of Sandwich, and the count de Chavannes, the British and Sardinian plenipotentiaries, are returned from the duke of Cumberland's camp; where their excellencies have had several conferences with the duke of Newcastle about some articles that are to be inserted in the general treaty of peace, in case the preliminaries hold good, and be duly executed.

As a great part of the imperialists are gone into the dutchy of Luxemburg, the troops in British pay are extended themselves in Brabant, and the duke of Cumberland is going to remove his head quarters to Eynhoven. The French exact their contributions with military severity, in order to take their leave of their temporary subjects. Bergen-op-zoom is soon to have a dutch garrison again, the French having given notice of their departure. Mess. Benink and Wassenauer are expected back to Aix, and then the day will be fixed for opening the conferences in form upon the definitive treaty.

It is pretended, as they add, that the French king, in spite of the advice of his ministry and principal noblemen, has resolv'd to keep an army of 100,000 men constantly in readiness for action in the Netherlands, till the conclusion of the definitive treaty.

From Vienna our accounts are not more agreeable than from Poland and Russia: The locusts do incredible mischief in Transylvania, and the Lower Hungary, coming in such prodigious swarms, that they darken the air as they pass by; and wherever they rest, they consume in one night's time, every green thing they find; so that the next morning one can hardly see a blade of corn, nor a leaf upon the trees. They have made their progress as far as a place called the Five Churches, in Hungary; and being thus got over the Danube, it is very much feared that they may take their flight into the Austrian Hereditary provinces.

By letters from Shropshire and Staffordshire we have accounts of prodigious havock made by Locusts in these parts: They have devoured most of the blossoms of the apple and crab trees; so that they expect but a very small quantity of cyder: What is most extraordinary, is, that the oak trees have suffered more than any other; many of them having no more leaves left on them than at christmas: But the rooks have lately took a liking to them, and every day devour a prodigious number. On the other hand the distemper which had visited their cattle is entirely ceased: And letters from all parts of the kingdom agree, that there never was a prospect of a better harvest of both hay and corn; and that hay in many places sells for less than 1 s a hundred weight.

Last saturday 200 shipwrights, carpenters, riggers, and several other workmen, were discharged from his majesty's yard at Woolwich, by an order from the commissioners.

A magnificent silver punch bowl, which weighs 250 ounces, has been finish'd some time, and was on tuesday last sent down to Bristol. The following inscription is engrav'd on it, under the arms of the city of London, viz. "The gift of the merchants and insurers of the city of London, to capt. JAMES SEIX, for his gallant behaviour, in taking three privateers from the enemy."

We hear that this week the late earl of Cromartie and his lady, set out for Devonshire, the place appointed for his retirement; and money was advanced for their journeys.

July 23. An exact survey having been taken at Moscow, by the officers of police, of the damage done by the late fires there, it appears that this disaster was much magnified by the consternation of the people. Instead of one half, as we were lately told, scarce a 20th part of that vast city, which contains above 70,000 houses within its outward inclosure, with churches, monasteries, and Hospitals in proportion, has been destroy'd on these calamitous occasions, tho' five different fires broke out within the space of a few days. Yet this destruction, small as it is in comparison of the whole, is greater than full the contents of some not inconsiderable cities.