

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, May 10, 1749.

Mr. GREEN.

I am well assured the following Lines will not give the least Offence, as they are not intend'd against any particular Person; but as they may, and I hope will, be of Service to such as may come under unfortunate Circumstances, so I beg the Favour of you to give them a Place in your Paper, which will oblige,

SIR, Yours, A. B.

HAVE been credibly informed, that it has been the Practice of late Sheriffs, as well as some of those who are now in that Office, to demand a Commitment and Releasement Fee, from all such Persons who are taken by an Execution; which they have no Right to, only in some Cases; And to set my Countrymen right, I will now explain the Nature of an Execution, whereby they may know when they have Justice done them in this Matter, as it is a Thing of great Consequence to the Country; for many Persons in a Year (take the Province throughout) fall under this unfortunate Condition, which comes to a large Quantity of Tobacco. As for Instance, let us suppose that every Sheriff gets by Commitment and Releasement Fees, on Persons that are not committed by the Court or a Magistrate, two thousand Pounds of Tobacco in his three Years Antientalty, which is a moderate Computation; and as there are twelve Sheriffs (for I do not reckon Worcester and Frederick, as being new Counties) in the Province, the whole Sum for every Sheriff's three Years will amount to twenty-four thousand Pounds of Tobacco; just so much, we may say, has been unjustly taken from the People every three Years: And to number the Sums back that have been receiv'd of the People, would amount to some hundred thousand Pounds of Tobacco. The Nature therefore, I take to be, of an Execution is, Where a Person has obtained a Judgment against another, either for Money or Tobacco, &c. if the Person cannot pay the Sum, then an Execution issues against the Body, which, if taken, may be kept in Custody till the Debt and Cost is satisfied; upon which the Sheriff charges a Commitment and Releasement Fee, which, as I said before, he has no Right to do, unless the Person is committed by the Court, or a Magistrate. And thus is the Distinction I would have my Countrymen observe, that for the future they may not be oppress'd; for unless a Person is committed by the Court or a Magistrate, a Sheriff has no Right to charge them Fees: Tho' some will say, that if a Person is carry'd to Goal, that entitles the Sheriff to such Fees; which I deny, for it makes no Difference whether the Person be put in Goal or not, unless he is committed as before mentioned. I hope no one will think that I have done this, to cast Reflections on any Gentlemen that have been, or are at present, in that Office: No, far be it from my Design; but I think they have done it through a mistaken Notion, or perhaps for Want of better Information, or have taken it from a long Practice and Custom; but surely every honest Man will condemn an unjust Practice or Custom, especially when there is no Reason or Law to support it; as all Laws and Customs are, or ought to be, founded upon Justice and Reason.

LONDON, November 30.

ALL the advices from France confirm the great scarcity of money at present in that Kingdom.
December 8. The lords of the admiralty have ordered seven men of war, of forty and twenty guns, to be got ready and victual'd with all expedition. It is said they are designed for the West Indies, and that admiral Hawke will have the command thereof.
The ... of the coast ...

We have the following Account well attested from a Correspondent, that Captain _____, being at a Settlement on the Coast of Africa for some Time, on Traffick, went up the Country, where he happened to be introduced to one of the Moorish Kings, who had about 40,000 Men under his Command; that being taken with the polite Behaviour of the English, he received them with the greatest Civility; and having a Son about Eighteen, a sprightly Youth, reposed such a Confidence in the Captain, as to put him, with another Youth of Rank, under his Care, to bring them to England, to be educated and brought up in the European Manner. The Captain received them with great Joy, promising all that lay in his Power; but very safely sail'd with them to another Settlement, and sold them for Slaves; but in a short Time he happening to die, the Ship coming to England, and the Officers relating the Affair, Orders were given directly by the Government to send for them, their Ransom to be paid, and bring them to England; according to which, they are both arriv'd, and we hear, are under the Care of the Right Hon. the Earl of Halifax, First Lord Commissioner of Trade, &c. and that Orders are given for their being cloath'd in a very genteel Manner, and educated accordingly, and introduced at Court, which no doubt will contribute greatly to the Credit and Trade of this Kingdom in those Parts.

Dec. 16. We hear that a bill will be brought into parliament this session, to prohibit the wearing of French lace and embroidery, the present act being very insufficient for that purpose; and it is not doubted but the legislature will support our manufacture, by endeavouring to put a stop to so great an evil.

On Thursday a number of transports sail'd from Williamstead, in order to bring over all the troops from Flanders; they have taken a large quantity of provisions with them to relieve those already embark'd, who are in a very distressed condition, some of them having been on board with their wives and children near a month, and hardly any provisions to eat.

Dec. 29. On Tuesday morning last, about 10 o'clock, his royal highness the duke of Cumberland land'd at Margate, where he arriv'd yesterday about noon, and cross'd the Water in a pair of oars to Whitehall, and walk'd on-foot through the Park to St. James's, accompanied by several persons of distinction.

January 19. We learn by this day's mail, that 30,000 Russian troops (who are to be join'd by 30,000 recruits) are ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march on the first notice; and that 42 ships of the line, as also all the frigates, bomb-ketches, and fireships, be got ready as soon as may be. They write from Stockholm, that M. Rasin, the Russian minister, has had several conferences with the Swedish ministry, on the warlike preparations making in Russia; on which occasion 'tis said, that his excellency declared, that those preparations were made by the emprefs, with no other view than to put her forces on a respectable footing, and that none of the neighbouring states need take any umbrage at it, as her Imperial majesty persists in her resolution not to disturb them, or be the first to begin hostilities; but as great potentates ought constantly to guard against unforeseen events, she thinks it proper to keep her forces in readiness to act in case of need. Upon which answer, the Swedish court issued orders of the same nature as Russia has done, to guard likewise against unforeseen events; a modern courtly term for premeditated designs.

According to private letters from various parts of the empire, they continue to recruit there for his Prussian service, as well as in all the provinces of his own dominions.