

M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, September 6, 1749.

A Saccinā ACCOUNT of the Island of Tobago.

T O B A G O was formerly the property of the dukes of Courland, who had likewise made a settlement; and built a fort on the coast of Guinea; which they called St. Andrew, to supply it with Negroes. After the duke's subjects had discovered, cultivated, and fortified Tobago, they were, some time in the reign of king Charles II, disputed by the Dutch; whereupon James, then duke of Courland, confirmed the sovereignty to Charles, together with the said settlement of St. Andrew, and on the 17th of November, 1654, the following treaty was signed between the two princes.

I. The king grants the duke and his successors full liberty of trade and commerce, for such ships as properly belong to him and his heirs (but not to those of his subjects), in any rivers or havens within the dominions of his majesty on the coast of Guinea; as also to trade for goods not exceeding 12000 l. per Annum, according to the price they were first bought for on those coasts from whence they were exported, with full liberty to build one or more storehouses to lay up goods, under the castles or forts belonging to his said majesty, or his subjects, on those coasts, to hold and enjoy the said liberties as long as friendship, amity, and a good understanding continued between the said king and the duke.

II. In consideration of the abovementioned concession and grant, the duke makes over to his majesty, his heirs, and successors, the fort of St. Andrew, in Guinea, and all other forts, fortifications, and sconces, there, belonging to the said duke; together with all guns, bullets, powder, and other instruments of war, thereto belonging.

III. The duke agrees, that himself and his heirs shall pay 3 per cent, for all the goods imported or exported to or from any of his majesty's dominions in Guinea.

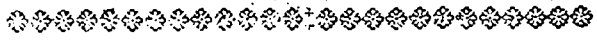
IV. His majesty grants to the said duke, his heirs, &c. the island of Tobago, together with all lands, havens, creeks, rivers, and profits, to the same belonging; to be held and enjoyed under the king's protection; provided always, that the said duke shall not suffer any besides his own subjects, and the subjects of his majesty, to abide in the said island, to settle plantations, or build houses; but the king's subjects shall have all the privileges of the duke's subjects.

V. The duke promises and agrees, that neither he, nor his heirs, &c. nor his subjects, nor any for their use, shall export any merchandise or product of the said island of Tobago, or import, otherwise than out of or into some ports belonging to England and Courland, or the ports of the city of Dantzick.

VI. As an acknowledgement that the duke of Courland does hold and enjoy the said island from his majesty, it is further provided and agreed, That when and as often as the king of Great-Britain, his heirs, &c. shall so require it, or when he or they shall happen to be engaged in a war against any king, prince, or state, except the king of Poland, the dukes of Courland shall, at their own proper cost and charge, from time to time, bring, or cause to be brought, one good man of war, furnished with 40 good iron guns, to such port, station, or place, as his said majesty, &c. shall name; into which ship his majesty shall put commanders and seamen; and supply them with victuals, and wages, under the conduct, and at the expense, of his said majesty, so long as the said ship shall continue in his or their service, which shall never be more than a year at one time.

In testimony whereof, and for the undoubted confirmation of this treaty, Charles II, king of Great-Britain, and James, duke of Courland, have signed and sealed the above-named treaty.

It does not clearly appear to me what ensued hereupon, other than that the Dutch soon after quitted the Island; but I do not find that the duke of Courland repossessed it, so that it remains at least a fief of the Crown of Great-Britain: And under what pretence the French presume to settle it our treaty makers only know, tho I cannot fairly suppose that there is any secret article about it. If I am rightly informed, the court of Spain seems to be of opinion against the French possessing it, and will act with some spirit on the occasion; as the French are wholly masters of Hispaniola, or are to be so, in lieu of settling Don Philip in Italy; therefore the settling Tobago likewise, besides the effect of trade, will totally overthrow the Balance of the sugar-trade in the West-Indies.



N A P L E S, May 6. THE merchants of this capital have armed several tartans to join the four gallees which are cruizing against the corsairs of Barbary, and the king has supplied every ship with forty soldiers, ammunition, and artillery, together with bread for the crew, on condition only, that these tartans should be subject to the orders of the commander of the gallees.

Rome, May 10. The pope has wrote to the grand master of the order of Malta, in treating him to send out two men of war against the Barbary corsairs, in order to rid this coast of them. With the same view his holiness has ordered an arm'd pink to put to sea from Civita Vecchia, the command of which is given to the chevalier Bonacorsi, who is to join the gallees of the Ecclesiastical state.

Leghorn, May 10. Never did we see such a swarm of pirates as now infest the Mediterranean: They hover chiefly on the coasts of the Ecclesiastical state, Naples and Sicily, and in the canal of Piombino. Within these few days they have pick'd up ten or eleven vessels belonging to Naples and Genoa, and a Maitefe tartan; which last capture must needs please them more than any of the others, as the order of Malta is by its institution the declared enemy of all the Mahometan states.

Hague, June 10, N. S. The earl of Holderness arrived here last Friday night, after the departure of the mail for England. His lordship delivered yesterday his credentials to count Bentinck, president of the week; and this day M. Byemount, their high mightinesses agent, waited upon his lordship, and delivered the resolution of the states, by which they acknowledge him as his majesty's minister plenipotentiary. The prince of Orange returned hither yesterday evening from Loo; and her royal highness the princess royal, with the young prince and princess, arrived this day about noon. The states of Holland resumed this day their assembly. There have been lately some considerable commotions at Amsterdam, occasioned by a dislike the mob has taken to the sect, which is known in this country, by the name of Herhutters. The populace assembled last week several days successively before the house of one M. Bruyninx, a famous preacher among those people, with an intention to pull it down, but were timely prevented by some companies of Burghers, who were ordered thither by the magistrates. The mob having however reassembled several times since, the magistrates thought proper to issue a proclamation, by which they prohibit all the conventicles and other clandestine meetings, which they have been informed are held in that city, to the great detriment of the established religion. All persons are, on the other hand, strictly enjoined to abstain from making any tumultuous or riotous assemblies, or committing any violence, on pretence of hindering the above mentioned meetings; and the infractors are threatened with the most rigorous punishments, as disturbers of the public tranquillity. Moscow, May 8. It is believed, that by the help of some exp...