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Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, December 26, 1750.

NAPLES, August 4.

On the 28th past they began to dig, in order to lay the foundation of a new wing which the king has resolved to have added to the royal palace: The workmen employ'd on this occasion found in digging, some pots of silver, which they conceal'd; but the affair having been discover'd, the workmen were immediately taken up and sent to prison, since which they have produced three pots, which have been taken from them and presented to the king.

Colague, Aug. 28. We have advices from Italy, that besides the invasions made by the Venetians in the Ferrarois, they have committed an act of hostility on the jurisdiction of the empress queen, the subjects of that republic having burnt several houses in the lordship of Metterburg in Istria, belonging to the marquis de-Prie, carried off six persons, and above 1000 cattle. The commandant of Croatia has received orders to enter the Venetian territories; but the moderation of the Holy See hath hitherto prevented matters being brought to this extremity.

Amsterdam, Sept. 11. Our East India homeward-bound ship the Vigilante, from Batavia, for the chamber of Enkhuyzen, is lately arrived, and has brought us a great deal of Maritime news; such as of the eastward-bound ships she met in her passage, and those she left at the cape in the beginning of the month of May; but with respect to what passes in the Indies, she either brought no account, or, at least, none that is made public, which is some disappointment, as there are many things, of which we have had confused rumours, that we should have gladly heard more clearly stated; however, time, perhaps, may bring them to light.

As yet we are not well informed of the consequences attending the late dispute at Tournay, upon seizing a deserter that had taken shelter in a church; but the last letters from Brussels acquaint us, that one of our regiments passing by Aloft in their march to their winter quarters; some deserters from Austrian regiments were discovered, upon which the garrison seized, and carried them away by force, which is a thing somewhat unusual, as upon proper application there is no doubt they would have been delivered.

This accident has revived the report, that our negotiation at Vienna has not been attended with much greater success than that at Versailles; and some, though probably without grounds, go so far as to say, that a certain court considers the Barrier treaty as no longer subsisting, and is inclin'd to confide the defence of certain fortresses to their own troops. It is also rumoured, that the elector Palatine had declared he will not permit the passage of any forces through his dominions, without a previous stipulation for the indemnification of his subjects for whatever losses they may sustain of any kind by such passage. It is notwithstanding, hoped, that certain negotiations on the carpet in Germany will remove not only these, but all other difficulties, of a like nature.

Madrid, Aug. 25. We hear from Cadiz, that the French Squadron, commanded by M. Maccaamara, has left that port, and is gone upon a cruise, or a voyage, or an expedition, we do not know which.

Paris, Sept. 19. The English and French commissioners for settling the limits between the dominions of the two crowns in America, have agreed to begin adjusting those of Nova Scotia.

Sept. 21. The conferences held at the Louvre between the king's commissioners and those of his Britannic majesty, have just been suspended: till the return of a courier dispatched to London. 'Tis pretended that our commissioners have proposed to treat alternately the affairs of the limits in North-America, and that of the evacuation of the contested islands; intimating,

that it would be proper, in the first place, to allow the inhabitants of Tobago, St. Lucia, &c. Time sufficient to get in their harvest, and transport their effects, before they evacuate the said islands: Which proposals the British commissioners do not think themselves authorized to acquiesce in, and therefore wait for fresh instructions.

Extract of a Letter from Brussels, Sept. 14.

"The sailing of the French Squadron from Breil afforded matter of much speculation here; but 'tis now talked, with great assurance, that it is gone to Cape-Breton and Canada, with arms and ammunition; in which their seems to be no improbability."

The following Letter from London, dated Sept. 11. N. S. is taken verbatim from the Amsterdam Gazette.

"Yesterday a grand council was held, in which new instructions were drawn up for Mr. Keene, the king's minister plenipotentiary at the court of Spain; and at the breaking up of the council the lords regents dispatched a courier to Madrid. We are assured that these instructions relate to the accommodation on the tapis with that court; particularly the new plan which his Catholic majesty's ministers have delivered to Mr. Keene, in which, as we are assured, they propose an equivalent to the South Sea Company; upon condition that the latter renounce their rights and pretensions both to the annual ship and the Assiento contract. 'Tis pretended that the regency have at the same time sent orders to Mr. Keene to make strong representations to that court, about divers English ships which the Spanish Guarda la Costas have taken in the West-Indies, inasmuch as it appears upon the best information, that most of those ships having been obliged by stress of weather or contrary winds, to draw near the coasts of his Catholic majesty's dominions in America, the Spaniards, according to the tenor of treaties, had no right to seize them."

Constantinople, August 4. All things have been very quiet here for some weeks past. The Sultan, who went to one of his country palaces on the other side of Marmora, came back from thence to Besiktagi, another palace on the channel of the Black Sea. The grand signior's return has been followed by a change in the ministry. The Kiaia-Bey, who is the first man in the ministry next to the grand vizir, with whom he stood but upon indifferent terms, has been deposed, but not exiled, and his post is given to Mehemet-Effendi, Treasurer, or High Treasurer of the Ottoman Empire. Ouzoun-Bay, who had the direction of the customs, is become High Treasurer. It is thought these changes will be followed by some others; but, however, we may say they will not take place very soon; for the ramasan begins this day, which is a kind of lent, observ'd with so much devotion by the Turks, that they account it a great sin to eat any thing before sun set. During this time of fasting they also abstain from intrigues; and all weighty affairs are at a stand. So that we cannot know till the ramasan is over, what may be the consequences of the above-mentioned changes in the ministry.

All those sudden and unforeseen changes, which are the effects of intrigues and cabals in the Seraglio, very much perplex the ministers of foreign powers. It is seldom they can build on any regular system at this court. When they imagine a grand vizir, or any other minister, secure enough in his post to take their measures in consequence, they unexpectedly find themselves mistaken by a sudden change, which, disconcerting their first plan, obliges them to cast about for a new scheme.

Another natural consequence of these changes is, that most of the Turkish ministers have but a general and superficial knowledge of foreign affairs. For as they are almost always in a precarious situation, they commonly take more thought about their