It appears by the last Letters from Venice, which are dated the 10th Instant, that the oldest Men there don't remember to have seen a Winter so severe as the present: All their Canals are frozen, and Travellers come to Town from the Continent over the Ice.

Petersburgh, Dec. 28. The High Chancellor Count Bestuchef, who has been long confined by Illness, was at Court last Wednesday, and received with great Marks of Affection by the Empress. Her Imperial Majesty has abolished some Regulations which cramped Trade.

Genoa, Dec. 28. There are seven Chebecks at Sea on a Cruize from the Port of Tunis.

Stockholm, Jan. 7. Count Gisors, Son to Marshal Belleisle, instead of proceeding to the Russian Court, is gone to Copenhagen.

Venice, Jan 10. The Frost is at present more severe in this Country, than ever was known in the Memory of Man, our Canals are frozen over, and Passengers come to Town from Terra Firma on the Ice.

On Tuesday died, at his Episcopal Palace, aged Seventy-five, Cardinal Querini, Bishop of Brescia, Librarian of the Viatican, and President of the Index Expurgatorius Bench.

Rome, Jan. 10. It is reported, that a Legate, or Extraordinary Nuncio, will be sent to France, to accommodate the Affairs that relate to the Clergy. But this will depend on the Advices which the Pope shall receive from his Nuncio now at Paris.

Brescia, Jan. 10. Cardinal Querini, Bishop of this City, died Yesterday, after a few Days Illness, aged about Seventy-five, much regretted by the learned World, as he was a Member of several Academies, particularly of that of Berlin, and had largely contributed out of his Purse towards the Roman Catholic Church lately built in that City. This Prelate was raised to the Purple in 1727, by Pope Benedict the 13th.

Vienna, January 11. We wait impatiently for another Courier from Constantinople, with the Result of the Divan which the Grand Signor order'd to meet the 18th of last Month. Some People, who pretend to be well acquainted with the Temper and Character of Osman the Third, assure, that if some Military Qualities have been observ'd in him, this Disposition rather proceeds from a View to secure the Affection of the Janissaries, than from a firm Resolution to follow that Bent. However it be, it is certain that all the General Officers of the Troops in the Hereditary Provinces, are order'd to repair hither, to receive Directions from her Imperial Majesty about a new Repartition of the said Forces.

Copenhagen, Jan. 11. Christenings in this City last Year, 2736. Burials, 2542.

LONDON.

December 24. They write from Paris, that their Court does not take Umbrage at the new Treaty between Spain and England, because the Spanish Ministry have assur'd the French Embassador, that this Treaty does not contain any Articles prejudicial to the Commerce of France.——Therefore, 'tis possible that it may not be very advantageous to Great Britain.

January 28. To be slow to Wrath, and averse to Revenge, is both prudent and religious in private Persons, who ought calmly to expect Reparation from God and the Law: But a whole People, when abused, ought to be keen in their Resentments, and quick in taking Vengeance; these being laudable and politic Virtues, without which they will never thrive, never be esteemed. For a Nation to suffer itself to be ill used, is of dangerous Example, whether those that use it ill be its Neighbours or its Natives: Patience, in this Case, invites fresh Injuries, and that People, who would not bear *many* Insults, must not bear *one*.

It has generally been the Misfortune of this Nation to be too slow in resenting the Encroachments of France, and taking Measures to frustrate her ambitious Designs; and tho' this Slowness may pass for an Indication of a magnanimous and generous Spirit, which is willing to give Aggressors Time to reflect on the Consequences of unjust Provocations; yet it can never pass for good Policy, especially when exercised towards an ill Neighbour that has amused and tricked us an hundred Times over and over, and never negotiates but with an Intention to over-reach. Delays double our Difficulties, and encrease our Expence; and sometimes one Year lost in temporizing, has been the Cause of a War's lasting seven or ten Years, which might have been put an End to in less than half the Time, had we run to Arms as soon as the Enemy's Designs became apparent. Whether any Time has been lost within these two Years, we shall not enquire, nor pretend to determine; it is enough that there are good Grounds for us to rest satisfied, that no more Time will be lost.

On Friday was presented to the House a Petition from the Town of Birmingham, praying for an Amendment of the Broad-wheel Act. As this is an Affair of the greatest Consequence to all the Trading Towns in England, and wants nothing but Numbers to obtain a proper Attention, it's hoped their good Example will be follow'd by other Towns affected. A Petition is attended with no Expence, and will not be too late even a Fort night hence.

We are assur'd that the Scheme for converting Dean's yard and the adjoining Houses into a Square of a very large Extent, for Boarding-Houses, &c. for the Reception of Scholars coming to Westminster School, is intirely laid aside, and 'tis now proposed to build a grand School in Tothil Fields, where there is a Piece of waste Ground of sixty Acres, in the Middle of which a magnificent Square is to be erected, with an Area of 1000 Feet for the young Gentlemen to play in, out of School Hours. One Side of this Square is to consist of Houses for the Head and Under Masters and Ushers, a noble School room, with convenient and separate Lodgings for the King's Scholars, a Hall to dine in, and a Theatre to act their Plays in at Christmas. Two other Sides are to consist of good Boarding-Houses, with pleasant airy Gardens, for the Reception of young Noblemen and Gentlemen that come for Education to Westminster-School. The fourth Side is to consist of a very fine Chapel in the Middle, and on each Side Houses for a Physician, Apothecary, Surgeon, Officers, Servants, &c. A Colonade is intended to be built round the Inside of the Square, under which the young Gentlemen may walk dry to and from their Lodgings to the School, and will be a proper Place to play in bad Weather. There will be two large Gates into the Square, the one from Hyde Park, the other from Westminster-Abbey, with large Avenues of Trees leading to each. In the Center of the Square is to be placed a grand Statue of Queen Elizabeth, their illustrious Foundress, carved by Rysback, and a Busto of the great Dr. Busby, in a Hatch, over the School Door. Tothil Fields is a fine gravelly Soil, very airy in it's Situation, just out of the Noise and Hurry of the Town, and yet so near it, as to afford every Convenience, and much more out of the Way of Temptation: There, the Morals, as well as the Education of the Youth, will be under the immediate Eye of their Masters; and in all Probability, the young Gentlemen will be much healthier than they can be in the Croud and Smoke of a City, and less liable to the Contagion of the Small Pox. This is a Scheme universally approv'd, as it injures no private Persons in their Property, which would justly raise a great Clamour, and is in every respect suitable to the Dignity of the first Seminary of School Learning in Europe.

The Press continues very warm for Seaman, and also for Landmen to serve on board the Guard-ships.

The Batchelor, Evans, from Rhode-Island to Dublin, laden with Flax and Rum, &c. is put into Mumbles near Swanzey with the Loss of her Masts and some of her Rigging.

A Letter from Chatham mentions a Number of Sailors being press'd there, at Stroud, and other Places out of the Liberty of the City of Rochester, as well as out of the Colliers and Vessels in the River Medway; and that the Report of the Mayor of Rochester's having back'd the Warrant, and giving Leave to press in the City, is without Foundation; it being inconsistent for him to give up any of the Privileges of that City, and especially one which they enjoy'd all the last War; and that not out of any Opposition, but as being necessary to promote the Trade of the Place.

Extract of a Letter from Paris, January 17.

'It is certain that the Court has issued Orders 'for fitting out at Brest and Rochefort, six Ships of 'the Line, five Frigates, and ten Transports, 'which last are to mount from five to ten Guns. 'It is likewise true, that a Body of 3 or 4000 'Land Forces is to be embarked in those Ships; 'but we are also assured that this Armament is 'made with no other Design than to reinforce the 'King's Possessions in America, in case Means 'cannot be found to accommodate the Disputes 'about Limits in that Part of the World. The 'Squadron is to be ready by the Month of April 'or May next, by which Time one may know what 'Turn the Negotiations actually on the Tapis may 'take, though we may already hope for Success 'from the last Instructions given to the Duke de 'Mirepoix.—We are indebted to the Utrecht Gazette for this Intelligence, which we suspect to be faulty in some Particulars.

There are certain Advices in Town, that five Sail of French Men of War are arriv'd at Quebec.

Charles Hardy, Esq; many Years a Commander in the Royal Navy, is by his Majesty appointed Governor of New-York, in the room of Sir Danvers Osborne, Bart. deceased.

Last Thursday his Majesty in Council was pleased to appoint William Henry Lyttleton, Esq; to be Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over his Majesty's Province of South Carolina in America.

The same Day a Proclamation was issued for encouraging Seamen to enter themselves on board his Majesty's Ships of War, by offering each able Seaman, between Twenty and Fifty Years of Age, who shall enter voluntarily, 30 s. Bounty-Money; and every ordinary Seaman, 20 s. Bounty Money.

Last Wednesday public Notice was given at Greenwich Hospital, for all the Seamen who are willing to go to Sea, to give in their Names, and that they shall not fail of the usual Encouragements.

Thursday Night the Press for Seamen was very warm below Bridge, and on Friday there was a very warm Press for Landmen, to man the Guard-Ships in the room of those who will be removed on board the Ships lately commissioned, and ordered to be got ready with all Expedition for Service.

His Majesty's Yatchts are cruizing in the Channel to pick out able bodied Seamen out of the homeward-bound-Vessels.

For these several Nights past, a great many Sailors have been seen on the different Roads contiguous to the City, marching off to avoid being press'd.

His Majesty's Guard-Ship Terrible, of seventy-four Guns, Commodore Pett; Fougeux of Sixty-six, Hon. George Bridges Rodney, Commander; Monarch, of Seventy-four, Roger Martin, Esq; the Captain, of Seventy, Charles Catford, Esq; the Anson, of Sixty, Charles Holmes, Esq; the Nottingham, of Sixty, Samuel Marshal, Esq; are ordered to be officered and mann'd to their full Complements, and fitted for Sea with the utmost Expedition at Portsmouth.

A Letter dated from Chatham last Thursday, contains the following Advices.

'It is confidently reported here that fifteen Sail 'of Ships are to be commissioned in this Harbour 'only. Capt. Stevens's Pendant is hoisted on 'board the Litchfield. The Dunkirk comes out 'of the Dock To-morrow; when comes in the 'Yarmouth and Somerset. The Prince's Ballast is 'taken out, and the greatest Expedition used on 'this important Occasion. A Number of Ship-'wrights are entered; and the Ropemakers work 'extra; and in general we are in high Spirits, 'hoping to convince our sanguine Neighbours that 'they had better not to have roused the English 'Lion.

'The Right Hon. the Lord Harry Powlet, 'Commodore of the Guard-Ships in this Harbour, 'and Member of Parliament for Lymington in 'Hampshire, came to Town this Day at Noon.'

The Dispatch and Albany, two of his Majesty's Sloops of War, with 12 Guns and 100 Men, were put in Commission on Friday.

We are credibly informed, that the Hon. Commodore Edgecumbe is not to be recall'd from his Command in the Mediterranean, but reinforced by a sufficient Number of Ships.

Friday several Vessels were taken into the Service of the Government, to carry Naval Stores to Gibraltar and Portmahon.

We hear that ten Men of War more were to be put into Commission this Day, and that 12,000 more Seamen will be allow'd for the Service of the current Year.

We hear that the three Regiments of Foot-Guards are speedily to be augmented to 70 Men each Company.

Friday a Gentleman who some time before had bought a Leg of Pork of a Butcher in St. James's, which he said had made him and his Servant's sick, brought the Apothecary's Bill to the Butcher, and insisted on his paying it, but the Butcher refused, alledging, that it might proceed from some other Cause, for that the Pork was good; the Gentleman threatned to post him in the Papers; and this extraordinary Affair is likely to come before the Worshipful Judges of the Court of Conscience of St. James's.

Lately some Gentlemen of Distinction were a Fox-hunting in Norfolk, and after they had run their Fox upwards of thirty Miles, he took to a Church-Yard, and got into the Church through a Hole that was under the Door, to which the Hounds made, and at last jumped through the Windows, and killed him in the Clerk's Pew.

They write from Potissick Haven in Cornwall, that three Lads going to take Care of a Fire, which was