

...that might convince them of his Majesty's good Intentions, and make them sensible how well the Conditions, on which he was authorized to conclude the Accommodation, would answer those Intentions: But the British Ministers did not view the Thing in the same Light; they found his Excellency's Propositions liable to divers Objections: That moreover, the Best Armament, though confined to precautionary Views, purely passive, had raised a Ferment in England, and brought Things to a Crisis; that they talked there of nothing but Armaments for both the Indies, particularly for America, whither they were preparing to send Reinforcements more considerable than those already gone; and therefore his Excellency waited for new Orders and Instructions how to behave at this Juncture. The Dispatches of this Embassador have been the Subject of a Council, at which the King was present: The Result of it has not yet transpired in Public; however it is still hoped that new Explanations may give a pacific Turn to Affairs. Since the first Complaints of the Conduct of the French on the Ohio, the King has received very circumstantial Relations from the Governor of Canada and the Officers who Command under him in North America; but they differ essentially from the Accounts inserted in the London News-Papers. The Duke de Mirepoix has also been charged to take Notice of this Variation, and of the Effects resulting from the same Things being represented in different Lights."

February 12. A sudden Fire broke out at the Seat of William Beckford, Esq; at Fonthill, near Hindon, Wilts, which in three Hours Time consumed the greatest Part of the Building, and most of the rich Furniture, together with the fine Organ, which is said to have cost near 5000*l.* The whole Loss is computed at 30,000*l.* only six of which were insured.

February 20. A Fire broke out at Mr. Thompson's Embroiderer in Bury Street, St. James's, which presently consumed the same, and greatly damaged the two adjoining Houses. Mr. Swan, a Lodger, who first alarmed the Family, jumped out of the Dining Room Window; the three Miss Swans, his Sisters, jumped out of the Back House Windows in their Shifts; Mr. Swan's Footman, and Mr. Thompson's Journeyman, got down Stairs with great Difficulty. Mr. Forbes, a Lodger, jumped out of the two Pair of Stairs Window, and was so much bruised that he is not expected to live: Mr. Thompson's Maid, Miss Swan's Maid and her Husband, all three perished, notwithstanding they were first out of Bed.

A Fire broke out in the House of William Belchier Esq; at Epfom, in Surry, (late the Prince of Wales's Hunting Seat) which in about two Hours entirely consumed the same; the House and Furniture was insured at 5500*l.*

February 21. Some People affect to believe, that the warlike Preparations making in England and France will end in an Accommodation of all Disputes between the two Crowns; and seem to talk of it with great Concern, from an Apprehension that this Nation will again (as it has almost always happened) be duped in treating with the French. They may possibly be in the right: For supposing the French should evacuate the Neutral Islands, renounce their Pretensions to the Territories on the Ohio, and settle Things in the East Indies on the same Footing as before the two Companies went together by the *Paris*; it follows that England will be a Loser by an Accommodation, unless the French be made to pay the Charges they have put us to.

In modern Politics it does indeed seem ridiculous to make the Aggressor, or the vanquished Party, pay the Charges of a War when he sets for Peace. Wars, now a days, are to be considered as the Effect of Mistakes or Misunderstandings; and therefore each Party must bear his own Burthen, and sit down contented with his Expence, however just his Cause may be, or however successful he may have been by Sea or Land. This may be called humane, generous Policy, between Christian Courts, who want sometimes to chastize, but by no Means to destroy one another: But it does not seem very consistent with common Sense, as it only serves to render Peace always precarious, and makes War a mere Trade, a Harvest for military Men, Contractors, Remittanceers, Stock Jobbers, &c. &c.

If the French make any Concessions at present, to save off a War, it can only be with a View to wait for a more favourable Conjunction: They can lose nothing by Delays, as the Affairs of Europe in general are circumstanced; but England may lose a great deal, may possibly lose every material Advantage she is actually possessed of. If France has seized or claimed any Thing which she has no Right to, let her renounce it and give it up; and let her reimburse us the Charges she has unjustly put us to: But if she thinks such Terms too

harsh, let us teach her, by an immediate and vigorous Exertion of our natural Strength, to be more cautious for the future how she trifles with or provokes the Masters of the Main.

If we do not take such a Course with the French Court, we must (supposing the present Differences should be adjusted) expect fresh Demands, new Encroachments and Insults, perhaps much sooner than is generally imagined. The French Ministry, probably, wait for the Motions of some of their Allies: There is some important Work to be done in Italy; but the Spaniards are not yet ready for Action: A Vacancy may likewise happen in the Throne of Poland, which may be the Means of embroiling all the North and East Parts of Europe; not to mention a certain Event from which we hope Divine Providence will long preserve us. But, as God alone knows the Time, we ought to make use of the Power he has given us, before such an Event reduces us to worse Circumstances.

February 22. They write from Constantinople, that the Grand Signor having been informed that four Tschorbachis (Officers of the Janizaries, whose Rank answers to that of Colonel) did under frivolous Pretences detain Part of their Soldiers Pay, in order to pocket it for their own Use, his Highness has caused them to be strangled; And four Odabachis, or Captains, who were so basely complaisant as to connive at this Fraud, have been cashiered. This Act of Justice has greatly increased the Janizaries Affection for their new Sovereign.

Last Tuesday the Winchelsea Man of War, Capt. Drake; the Happy Sloop, Capt. Jekyll; and the Swift Sloop, Capt. Harkerfon, sailed from Plymouth on a Cruise.

Last Sunday twenty-eight commissioned Officers, most of them Cadets, twenty four non-commissioned Officers, and ten Gunners, were made in the Royal Train of Artillery at Woolwich.

February 24. According to some Advices from Lisbon, the Treaty for the Exchange of Territories, between the Crowns of Spain and Portugal, in South America, is not like to be executed very speedily. The Tapas, who belong to the Missions of the Jesuits, are highly dissatisfied with the Provisions made for them, and have thereupon very roundly declared that they will not *quit*; to justify which they have assembled an Army of twenty Thousand Men, so well disciplined that it is much doubted whether the French or Portuguese Militia will enter into any Disputes with them.

An Extract of a Letter from the Hague, dated February 21.

"People seem extremely divided in their Opinions concerning a War, which many look upon as in a manner inevitable, because they cannot pitch upon any Power that can act as Mediator between England and France. If our Republic made the same Figure it did formerly, none could so properly undertake that Office, but we are unhappily in too weak a Situation to have sufficient Weight. The only Way to maintain an Equilibrium, would be to disengage the King of Prussia from France; but, upon the footing Things are at present, that seems to be no easy Thing to accomplish. It appears, from the Steps taking by the French, that they expect a Sea War, in which, however, they are sure to be assisted by their natural Ally, the Spaniards, with whom they have just renewed their old Alliances. The Court of France has added ten Millions to the Fund allotted for their Marine; and, in case of a Rupture with England, 'tis not doubted but the old Scheme will be pursued of sending the Pretender into Scotland. Mess. de Sechelles and de la Ville, who seem to have Talents extremely well adapted for the Management of the Finances, and creating new Funds, have just formed a Scheme for raising thirty Millions upon a more advantageous Plan than that of Life Annuities."

We hear that all the just Demands on a Nobleman who lately died abroad in a public Employ, will be discharged by a very great Personage out of his own Purse, to the Honour of the Nation; and of that sacred Personage himself, if any further Honour can be added to a Character so universally revered.

Last Week the following melancholy Accident happened at Hope in Herefordshire, viz. As one John Calcomb, a Mason, was going to ram down a Charge in his Gun, which happened to be on the full cock, his Dog jumped up at the Piece, and one of his Feet catching the Trigger, it went off, whereby the poor Man was shot in at the Nose, and had his Brains blown out.

Extract of a Letter from Pennsylvania, dated December 17.

"We are like to have hot Work with the French next Summer, for their Camp is but 250 Miles from the City of Philadelphia, so that pro-

bably my future Letters may furnish you with the History of a bloody Campaign. If the closest Attention is not paid by the Government to the Affairs of these Colonies, the Trade and Glory of Great Britain may soon receive a mortal Wound. Were the true State of our Affairs in this Part of the World made public at London, it would alarm the Fears and raise the Spirit (if yet there be any Spirit) of the English Nation. The French will soon be so strongly fortified on the Ohio, that no Force we can lead to that Country will be able, perhaps, to dislodge them. A Trifle of Men and Money would have dislodged them when they first scouted at Crown Point, but now they are too strong to be dispossessed. The same is too like to be the case at Ohio.

February 25. According to some private Advices from Constantinople, the new Grand Signor has always been of a very rigid and bloody Temper, and given Proofs of it on various Occasions; so that it is feared his Reign will be a severe and turbulent one, though he has begun it with Instances of Generosity and Clemency: It is likewise whispered at Constantinople, that Sultan Ibrahim, the Grand Signor's Brother, died suddenly, but not of a natural Death, since his Sublime Highness's Accession to the Throne.

February 27. We hear from Newcastle, that on Monday the 22d in the Evening Capt. Seaf, on board the Ann Tender belonging to the Torbay, the Ship on which Admiral Boscawen will hoist his Flag, arrived at Shields; and on Thursday the Volunteer's Drum, offering his Majesty's Bounty of three Pounds a Man, was beat through that Town, inviting all Gentlemen Seamen to enter into his Majesty's Service, the like not known here for many Years before; since which several have enlisted, and 'tis believed the Captain will raise a great Number of Volunteers.

On Monday se'nnight a young Gentleman in North Shields, set forward for Newcastle on Horseback, and soon after his Horse returned to the Turnpike Gate at Chilton, bridled and saddled. This occasioned his Friends to make a diligent Enquiry after him, they got the Affair called by the Bellman here, and imagining he was murdered, appointed proper Persons to examine all the Pit-Holes, &c. near the Road: But to their great Astonishment, received a Letter from him two Days after, intimating that he was well, and very happy in the Arms of a young Lady in Newcastle, whom he had married, and had made use of this Stratagem, to reconcile his Parents to his Marriage, who being much against it, would he thought be surprized into a Consent; by this Means judging, and as it happened justly, that the Joy for the News of the lost Sheep, being found, would overbalance and drown in them all Dislike to the young Lady he had taken for his Wife, who by the bye is well accomplished and agreeable.

February 28. A Ship is arrived in one of the Western Ports of Scotland, who, in her Way home from America, was drove by contrary Winds upon the Island of Ise so much talked of, and in Quest of which the Government sent a Man of War.

The Warlike Preparations at Woolwich, Deptford, Chatham, Portsmouth, and Plymouth, are incredible, and have so alarm'd the French, that they have already offered Terms of Accommodation, which have been rejected. An Embargo has been laid on all Merchant Ships in the Ports of France, and they Work Night and Day to get their Navy in Readiness to sail, but meet with insurmountable Difficulties.

March 1. According to private Letters from Russia received by the last Mail, the new Levies have been raised with so much Facility, that all the Regiments will have received their Recruits before the Middle of this Month.

His Portuguese Majesty has been pleased to legitimate three natural Sons of the late King. The eldest of them will be made Grand Inquisitor in the room of Cardinal d'Acanha; the second Bishop of Porto; and the third Grand Prior of Chimanais. This Act of the King is extremely admired by the Court, and by the Nation in general; those Princes being as much esteemed by the Public on Account of their personal Merit, as their high Birth. The rich Gifts they received from Nature have been improved by an Education suitable to their Rank, which, joined to the many amiable Qualities they are possessed of, cannot fail to secure to them the Affection of the Portuguese Nation.

Letter from Gona, dated February 9.

"The Dispositions of the Corican Malecontents do not yet correspond so well with those of the Marquis Doria, as some public Papers have given out; nor can we say that they run quite counter to them. The Conduct of those Islanders has of late been moderate enough; for though they would not

accept of Peace on the terms they have consented to, they cannot be reproached with that this Moderation much owing to the Wisdom and Conduct of the new Republic's Motive whatever Trace has all the Republic's faith continued Apprehensions fit quietly in their Hands. Liberty, who proved fiercer than we wished to the Part of grave Seniors could have imagined, judicious in Council a Field. When reduced to a sedentary Life, they their Reflections have regulations and such with that, had they no Master, titled than any People have Masters; and it Hostilities, if, by cease the Republic of Geneva tended to establish the But this cannot yet be Laws they have made cautions against the E the Confusion and all the Independency, they h regular Form to their the Republic's Interest yet elapse before they with her, by establish preserve Order and Pe will they attain this Government, which which are said to be We can hardly believe hitherto affords room very likely that Men averse to one Yoke, The best Laws somet Opposition. But, a made by the Corican there would be nothing Laws of other Nation firmed, as to warrant Coricans whenever the ever, it is still a great low to make Laws: which nothing but a pl were certainly not ex which hitherto appea Islanders. From the that they were very b ded for the Republic eluded from it, that c how could we ima Casilina's and Cato's that they could unite Difference, that they tice, but as yet are C this is enough to prov Want of Laws, and from which, and the of their Courage, i modiation with the 'R takes Place, will be For then there will they have yielded to established them to re which all Nations ex regular Government, as good a Plan of G board of. It will the that it will be on a to Ceasar the Things a Conviction, that it Law, nor even that that they must also observed; which ca enacted by legal Auth noble behave like goo wise Common Sense Masking, that their Yesterday the Ind Secret and Goods to their Settlements.

We are assured that able Sailors on board missioned, and that n tern.

By a Letter from informed of a desper one the 8th Instant, and Customs, and several were danger but that, in the en

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