

As the Frogs in the Fable mounted the Log, so exulting Britons bestrided the silent Cannon; Curiosity took the Measure of their Bore: Thousands got upon the peaceful Brass, who would have trembled at the distant Echo of the Cannon's Roar. Even Women and Children were eager to climb, and trample upon the Flower de Lys of FRANCE.

In the midst of this extraordinary Elation, who imagined that Fortune could prove inconstant? But, alas! on the very Day in which the French Artillery moved to the Tower of London, we received the unwelcome News, that it was possible for the British Forces to be disconcerted. Nay, the melancholy Relation assured us, that our Enemies had ventured to fire upon our Troops, and had actually killed five or six Hundred; for no other Reason than because they had invaded their Coast.

The Shouts of Triumph, immediately changed to the Murmurs of Dejection, "How, (says the dispirited Englishman) is it possible to have lost so many Men, and nothing done, after all this vast Expence? There must have been some Mischance; or a Pack of meagre Frenchmen could never have destroyed so many brave gallant Fellows."

Thus the Vulgar, who judge from present Appearances, think that those Appearances will always last. Because our Troops had hitherto invaded the French Coast without any considerable Opposition, they concluded that they were never to be effectually opposed. Because we have had the Happiness to wage War without any great Effusion of Blood on our Side, they imagined our Soldiers to be invulnerable. They are dejected at the Loss of our Troops, and mourn the Slain, as if some grievous Calamity had befallen the Kingdom: But though Humanity prompts Individuals to lament the Fate of their gallant Countrymen, yet the national Interest is not so affected by the unhappy Accident as to give us Cause to mourn.

We have been this Season victorious beyond Expectation. We have demolished our Enemy's Forts, destroyed their Shipping, and distressed them along their Coast with inconsiderable Loss to ourselves, — a Loss so inconsiderable, that perhaps so many successive Invasions, were never yet made at such a small Expence of Blood. In short, we have been Conquerors in all Parts, and seem, at present, to be in a Condition of preferring Terms of Peace.

But we ought not to be so inflated with repeated Triumphs, as to be unprepared for the News of a Defeat. We should remember that the Fate of War is uncertain, and that the Victor To-day may be a Captive To-morrow.

Perhaps it may be politic in the Ministry to animate the Populace, by a gaudy Display of the warlike Trophies won from the Enemy; but considerate Men smile at the ostentatious Parade. They are sensible of the Folly of insulting a vanquished Foe. They rather study how to use than enjoy a Victory: And while others mourn a Defeat, they consider how to repair it.

Triumph and Despair are alike, the Lot of the Vulgar.

PARIS, January 2.

THE general Redemption of French Slaves in the Kingdom of Morocco, is at length happily terminated. The Fathers, Peter George, and John James Aubert, Deputy Commissioners from the two Orders of Mathurins, and of our Lady of Mercy, went over to Tangiers the 24th of September last, with the Money destined for this pious Design. They received on board their Vessel fifty French Slaves, and setting sail for France, arrived at Toulon the 7th of November. They are at present on the Road to this Capital, where they are bringing the Slaves which they have delivered.

The King was pleased to favour the Conclusion of this Redemption, by granting Liberty to all the Slaves of Morocco that served on board the Gallies: Ten of them have already been sent over to Africa.

We have the greatest Reason to commend the good Behaviour of the Lord Home, Governor of Gibraltar, and of Admiral Osborn, who supported this Negotiation with all their Power. They generously granted the Vessel which carried the Commissioners to Tangiers, the Protection of their Flag in the Passage of the Straits, which was infested with Privateers. The Captain of the English Frigate, who took the Commissioners Vessel under his Escort, used all his Interest for them with the Governor of Tangiers, and contributed not a little to remove the Objections of the Moors. The Com-

missioners, during their Stay at Gibraltar, received from the English all the necessary Assistance they needed for the Success of their Mission.

Leghorn, January 12. Sidi Hassan Gorgio, Ambassador from the Bashaw of Tripoly in Barbary, to the Court of England, is arrived at this Place with a great Retinue, and several Presents, he has delivered to his Britannic Majesty's Consul here, Thirteen Neapolitan Slaves, whom he also brought with him, have been delivered to his Sicilian Majesty's Consul. His Imperial Majesty's Snow the Hussar is returned from Algier: The Dey received the Emperor's Presents, but would not accept the Consul who was sent.

LONDON, February 13.

A Letter from on board the Favourite Frigate, dated at Gibraltar, January 8, 1759.

"On the 31st of December last, we fell in with the Gronyard, a French Frigate of 26 Guns, Nine Pounders, and 130 Men; from St. Domingo for Cadix, laden with Sugar, Coffee, Cotton, Indico, Tortoise-Shell, Drugs, &c. which we took after an Engagement of One Hour and Five Minutes; in which Time we received considerable Damage in our Rigging, but lost none of our Men: The Prize had Five killed and Fifteen wounded, and most of them since dead. She is esteemed one of the richest Ships taken this War, and supposed to be the best Sailer the French ever possessed. She is the Vessel who took the Shaw, Captain Walter Barber, of your Port, some Time ago.

We are assured that a formal Declaration hath been made in Holland, That if either the Province of Holland, or the Trading Towns in it, should, without the Consent of the States General, fit out and send to Sea 18 or 25 Ships of War, to protect their Trade, as they may pretend (which they are not impowered to do by the Act of Union) such Ships of War will be treated as Pirates, and that, if the States General should send a Fleet to Sea for the same pretended Purpose, it will be considered as a Declaration of War.

Jan. 20. By the last Letters from Madrid, which scarce mention any Thing but the King's dangerous Illness, we learn, that there are three Parties at Court; that of Don Carlos King of the Two Sicilies, that of Don Philip Duke of Parma, and that of Don Lewis. The last is very weak, and makes scarce any shew. That of Don Carlos is in some Respects the prevailing Party: Those who belong to it would by all Means have him succeed to the Crown; but they would have him renounce the Throne of Naples for his Descendants as well as for himself, and place on it Don Philip. The French Party are of the same Mind: But the Zealots of Don Carlos's Party, whose Number is pretty considerable, alledge that it would be a flagrant Injustice to oblige his Sicilian Majesty to make such a Sacrifice. They will scarce consent that at the Death of Don Carlos the Crown of Naples should be disjoined from the Crown of Spain, and that only on Condition that it be given to the second Son of Don Carlos; and this Regulation they think sufficient to content all Foreign Courts; since the Re-union of the Crowns of Spain and the Two Sicilies on the same Head, will thereby be provided against. But what will Don Philip say to this? What will the King of Sardinia, that formidable Gentleman-Usher of the Alps, say to it? Will he see with Indifference his Claim to the Duchy of Placentia by the Right of Revertibility, set aside, which was secured to him (not very clearly indeed) by the seventh Article of the famous Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle? And will the House of Austria patiently suffer itself to be stript of such an Estate, which it yielded up for a Time only, that is to say, till the Crown of the Two Sicilies should devolve to the Infant Don Philip, agreeably to the Spirit of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, which intimates that in 1748 the contracting Parties counted that the present King of Spain would die without Heirs Male, that Don Carlos would go to Madrid, Don Philip to Naples, and the provisional Settlement made for this Prince revert to the House of Austria.

The excellent Conduct of the late Princess's Governante was continually crossed and checked by the French Faction, who resumed Life and Spirits upon the Death of the Prince, her Consort; and when the present War broke out, they not only most ungratefully refused to furnish the Troops stipulated by the Treaty for the Assistance of Great-Britain, in Case of her being engaged in a War, but even made Advances to France, who openly triumphed in the Superiority she had obtained in their Councils. But this was not all; a System of Trade was drawn up, unknown to all former Times, and inconsistent with all former Treaties; for the Dutch undertook, upon certain Terms, to

carry on the French Trade, to and from the New World, in their Bottoms. This scandalous Collusion was resented, as it ought, by Great-Britain, who gave their High Mightinesses to understand, that she could not agree to their Subjects carrying on any Trade with, or for France, but such as had been usual in Time of Peace, and such as was agreeable to the Spirit of Treaties. You have, in a late Paper, fully exposed the Reasoning of the Dutch upon this Head, by proving that their Conduct towards Great-Britain, since concluding the Treaty of 1674 (under which they plead) has fully absolved her from all Engagements of that Kind with their Republic.

But behold! A State, that, during the last War, when her most important Interests were at Stake, pleaded that she was not able, without the Assistance of Great-Britain (which indeed she obtained for that Effect), to furnish out a single Ship of the Line, for assisting her Allies, and fulfilling her own Engagements; that State, I say, or rather a few Merchants of that State, threatened instantly to fit out Eighteen Ships of the Line to act against Great-Britain; and in Protection of a Trade, which is an Insult upon all the Laws of Society, and all the known Principles of Nature and Nations. Not contented with this, they have made public Appeals to all the Neutral Powers in Europe, to back their Resentment. They have erected their Cause into a Kind of a Crusade; and the misinterpreted Article of the Treaty of 1674, is held up by them as their Gospel, which has been trampled upon by the Infidel English, in the same Manner as they and their Ancestors used to serve the real Gospel in some idolatrous Part of India.

Well! We shall suppose that they succeed, and that they engage the Northern Powers in their Quarrel. But what a Figure these make at Sea, let the Events of last Campaign declare; when the Russian Fleet out of 7000 Men they had on board, did not carry 300 Sailors, (and these too Foreigners) and in their Return home was actually shipwrecked for Want of the necessary Hands to bring it back. Let us suppose that this Fleet, which was said to consist of 30 Ships of War, had been to engage with two 74 English Men of War, well appointed, and well commanded; I should be glad to ask my Reader, on which Side he would have chosen to have fought; for my own Part, I can figure no Idea of such a Fight, nearer than two hungry sharp-set Cats, getting in amongst a Number of over-grown Rats and Mice.

The Marine of Sweden is, if possible, still more contemptible than that of Russia. His Danish Majesty is too wise and too just to engage in any such Quarrel, and were he even inclined, he knows his Weakness by Sea too well to attempt it. To what Power then must our High and Mighty Allies have Recourse? The Marine of their Friends the French is confessedly ruined, by their giving up their Trade, in a Manner, to the Mercy of the English, and by keeping the Hulks of their Ships rotting within their Harbours.

It may be said, perhaps, that a great Scene is opening in Spain, whose Marine is upon a good Footing. An active, ambitious Prince is about to mount the Throne of that Kingdom, who will not be displeased to see a Check given to the Sovereignty of the English at Sea. We shall for once admit this, and that the Spaniards are able to fit out 24 Ships of the Line, (which is the utmost Number that can be pretended) but does the Situation of the Affairs of Don Carlos admit, at present, of his breaking with England; or can we imagine the Spanish Ministry will be mad enough to provoke Great-Britain now, when she is more powerful by Sea than ever she was known; when they remember how often and how dearly they have suffered by her Marine, when it was not by one Fourth so strong as it is now?

In short, the Government of Great-Britain, were all the Marine Force in the World drawn up in one Line against it, has no Check upon their Power by Sea but its own Equity, and the Magnanimity of its Sovereign.

BRITANNICUS.

BOSTON, March 26.

On Thursday last a Vessel arrived at Marblehead, from Lisbon, which Place she left the 8th of February: A Gentleman writes to his Friend here, "I flatter myself that your next Campaign will be prosperous, and I hope under God the Business will be completed; — there seems to be at present no Appearance of a patch'd up Peace to interrupt it. Our reigning Administration is hourly disposed to push earnestly for the general Good of our Country; the Nation seems satisfied with the Conduct

of the Ministry; the People Supplies for continuing the last Post Intelligence came arriv'd at Gibraltar dispatched to bring over Mr. Skinner, whereto is added a Fleet was preparing at home Straights, with 15,000 Men leave to Time to discover important an Armament, that the French have, or Men to Rouffillon, on the Coast assigning any Cause for are in that Kingdom raising their Regiments, and it's v the King of Spain comes to will be some new Turn in broils arise.

The King of Prussia is with a View to commence mies in their Winter Quar surprising if the near App Spain's Dissolution should Hungary to tender advantage to the Prussian Hero, that sue Measures for securing t and Placentia, which by t return to her, when that C ever, I hope he will be ste not concur in any Measures Prejudice of England."

WILLIAMSBURG.

On Saturday last his Honor pleased to prorogue the giving his Assent to several ing Speech:

Gentlemen of the Council, Gentlemen of the House, I CANNOT dismiss you, I great Satisfaction I have I have this Day passed, to Companies of Artificers to which is to act, in Conjunction Forces, in offensive Operation by which Means, the Fort at in a very respectable Condition Indians, or put a Stop to ments of the French. I did Reason, and a just Sense o would in the End prevail and Fears of Distress and Poverty to thank you, Gentlemen of for the Money you have rais'd and it shall be my Endeavour cation of it; and a steady Ob have recommended to me, to viction of the Sincerity of m secure to me your future Coun

Gentlemen of the Council, Burgesses, I sincerely wish this Colo Advantage and Benefit ex long wished for, and now a for that Purpose.

The Act for the Encourag Manufactures gives me an O mend to you all, in your res to encourage and propagate Branches; the true, I had a Source of Riches, Greatnes That you may immediately s Work, I think it expedient to you are accordingly prorogued day in August next.

April 27. On Sunday last from Antigua, was brought to the Eastward of the Cape Man of War, who informed h eight Weeks from England; three other Ships of War, u Admiral Holmes, and 70 Tr New-York, 48 of which were

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