

ment a Saxon officer, who had proposed a scheme to the French Ambassador, for the destruction of a certain unfortunate potentate. The French Ambassador discovered the same to his Majesty.

Dec. 5. Yesterday his Majesty went to the House of Peers, attended by the Duke of Ancaster, and Lord Bellingbroke, and gave the royal assent to the two following bills, which passed the House of Lords on Thursday, viz.

The bill for allowing the importation of wheat, wheat flour, Indian corn and pulse, from America into this kingdom, duty free.

The bill for allowing the importation of wheat, wheat flour, rye, rye-meal, barley, barley meal, oats, oatmeal and pulse, from Europe or Africa, free of duty.

Some other bills, relative to the importation of provisions, are in great forwardness, and it is thought will receive the royal assent next week.

The number of seamen to be employed for the service of the ensuing year, is not so many by 3000 as last year.

They write from Madrid, that the peace which was negotiating between that Court and the states of Barbary, is again broken off, and preparations are making to renew the war.

They write from Venice, that the Republick are equipping a squadron of men of war, to put to sea early next spring, to watch the motions of the Turks.

Dec. 8. We learn from Sweden, that his Swedish Majesty had expressly declared to several foreign Ministers at his Court, that all the preparations for war, which he was carrying on, had no other meaning than that of putting his kingdom in a proper state of defence. That Denmark had set him the example; and that as soon as that Crown should begin to disarm, he should immediately follow their example.

The West-India Merchants have taken up some vessels for the purpose of carrying provisions and stores to the islands of Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, &c. Two ships sailed on Saturday last.

It is said that a negotiation of a very important nature is now going forward, between our Court and that of Berlin.

They write from Hamburgh, that 3000 tons of naval stores have lately been bought up there by a Spanish Agent.

We are informed that five ships of the line and three frigates are ordered to take in six months provisions immediately.

Dec. 10. Orders are given for filling up the Irish regiments to their full establishments, being much reduced of late by draughts for foreign service.

We hear that the Earl of Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, is shortly to come to England.

Dec. 12. It is determined by Administration, not to suffer the Dantzickers to be oppressed by his Prussian Majesty; and the English Consul has accordingly acquainted the city with that determination.

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, December 10.

"There is an order come down here to discharge 800 marines from this division, and numbers are discharged every day. We hear an order is arrived for all the guardships at Spithead to come into the harbour, and for the complement of men to be reduced to the same establishment as in the year 1770."

The Betsey, Fowke, from Cape Fear, was found lying on her broadside, without any living creature on board, and towed into Polperra, a fishing town near Plymouth, the 7th instant.

Dec. 15. It is now very confidently asserted, that real advice has been received of a reconciliation between the King and Queen of Denmark.

Great numbers of cannon are now shipping off at Carron, in Scotland, for the use of the Empress of Russia.

A change in some of the high departments of government in Ireland is soon expected to take place.

Yesterday the bill to prohibit the exportation of corn, and to allow the free importation; the bill for the free importation of provisions from Ireland; and the bill to discontinue the duties on the importation of tallow, hogs lard and grease, received the royal assent by commission, in the House of Lords.

Dec. 17. They write from Petersburg, that some people of distinction have lately been seized there, on suspicion of a design against the Empress.

Dispatches are now preparing, in order to be sent off with all speed to the Governors in America.

Yesterday two expresses were sent down to Falmouth, to be forwarded by the Leghorn Packet to his Majesty's Consuls at Genoa or Leghorn.

It is said that application has been made by some masters of vessels, trading up the Archipelago, to have letters of marque against the Tunisian vessels.

Dec. 19. They advise from Petersburg, that some of the new raised regiments have lately been disbanded.

By letters from Madrid we learn, that advices have lately been received of a dangerous insurrection in one of the Spanish settlements in the Philippine islands.

They write from the Hague, that three ships of war and some transports are now getting ready in the Texel, and will soon sail with troops, &c. on board, for the East-Indies, some disagreeable news having been lately received from thence.

Extract of a letter from the Hague, December 15.

"Mr. de Berkenrode, Minister from the States General at the Court of Versailles, has advised their High Mightinesses, that France has not only secretly made a considerable augmentation of her troops, but proposes to make another of ten men to each company, in all the regiments in the service of that crown, by which it cannot but be supposed, that the Court of France is meditating some important design."

EDINBURGH, November 20.

Yesterday Joseph Banks, Esquire, Doctor Solander,

and Doctor Lind, set out for London. In visiting the Western Islands of Scotland they went ashore at the island of Staffa; which is reckoned one of the greatest curiosities in the world. This island is about three miles in circumference, is surrounded by a row of massy pillars of different shapes, such as pentagons, octagons, &c. they are about fifty-five feet high, and near five feet in diameter, supporting a solid rock of a mile in length, and about sixty feet high above the pillars. There is a cave in this island which the natives call the cave of Fingal; its length is three hundred and seventy one feet, about a hundred and fifteen feet in height, and fifty one feet wide; the whole sides are solid rock, and the bottom is covered with water twelve feet deep. The Giants Causeway in Ireland, or Stonehenge in England, are but trifles when compared to this island, elegant drawings of which were taken on the spot.

We hear that Mr. Banks, Doctor Solander, and Doctor Lind, are to make another voyage round the world next year. The last voyage to the South Seas is now publishing; under the inspection of Doctor Hawke's worth.

BOSTON, January 28.

A notification is inserted in the last New-Hampshire Gazette, cautioning persons to beware of counterfeit half johannes's; as they are now currently passing there, finished in such a matterly manner, as to deceive, at first view, the licit eye; but upon narrow inspection the deceit may be detected, the cheek of the image being jetted out on one side of the coin; the opposite a little hollowed; dated anno 1759; and 1763, and appear new as tho' they were just coined.—By dropping them with one known to be good gold, or brick or stone, the difference of sound will prove them base metal.

NEW-YORK, February 4.

By Captain Pearce, in 25 days from Kingston, in Jamaica, we have advice of the death of Sir William Treaw y, Governor in chief of that island, when the command devolved on the Hon. John Dalling, Esq; Lieutenant Governor.

Wednesday the 27th ult. Capt. Henshaw arrived here from St. Vincent's; but last from St. Martins: He left St. Vincents about 5 weeks ago, and informs us, that General Leybourne was gone to Grenada, and the command of the troops devolved on Col. Dalrymple, who had entirely surrounded the Indians, and it was imagined the greatest part of them would be made prisoners, as they never had testified the least willingness of engaging the soldiers in any other manner than in scouting parties; that Capt. Read's boat in going ashore with Capt. Stanton and 25 men, overfet, by which accident 18 soldiers were drowned; that the Indians from behind a little eminence fired upon and wounded a serjeant, and killed three men that were saved from the waves; but that Capt. Stanton and the serjeant behaved with so much resolution, notwithstanding the latter was wounded in three places, that the Indians soon gave way, and took to the woods, when Capt. Stanton immediately hoisted English colours and kept possession of the ground the enemy abandoned.

Yesterday the snow Peggy, Capt. William Hastie, arrived here in 2 weeks from St. Ubes, who, on the 10th of January, lat. 23, long. 53, spoke with a snow, Capt. McNeil, 22 days from Charlestown, bound to Dominica; and the 26th, lat. 36, spoke with the ship Commerce, Capt. Robert Hastie, 7 weeks and two days from Glasgow, bound to Virginia.

WILLIAMSBURG, February 4.

We hear his Excellency the Governor has directed expresses to be sent to the several members of his Majesty's Council, requiring their attendance next Saturday at the council chamber, in order, it is generally believed, to consult with that honourable board upon the expediency of calling together the General Assembly, that they may have an opportunity of taking under their immediate consideration the present alarming state of our paper currency; both of the late emissions having lately been discovered to be very ingeniously counterfeited, and it is thought have circulated for a considerable time past, highly injurious to the trade and interest of the country, and of every individual. Upon their meeting, there is little doubt but some effectual method will be fallen upon to restore the public credit, as well as to discover, and bring to condign punishment, those who have been instrumental in giving it so severe a shock.

The mercantile body, we are well assured, have it much at heart to contribute every thing in their power for the publick interest, and will use their best endeavours in discovering the circulators of this baneful traffick.

PHILADELPHIA, February 10.

The ship Richard Penn, Captain All; Mary and Elizabeth, Captain Mesnard; and the Pennsylvania Packet, Captain Osborne, are arrived in London from this place.

The snow Molly, Captain Scott, and the sloop Adventure, Captain Robinson, both of this place, are arrived at Georgia from Hispaniola.

The ship Minerva, Captain Gregory, from this port for Savannah La Mar, in Jamaica, passed by Port Royal the 19th of December.

The Captains Gill, Hanse, Craig, and Canby, are arrived at Jamaica; Captain Wilson at St. Croix; and Captain Mercuttier, at the island of St. John; all from this harbour.

ARRIVALS.

At Deal, The Lord Camden, Richardson, and the Swan, Lynch, from Virginia. The Friendship, Frost; Polly, Kelly; Betty, Henrick; John and Mary, Boucher; Peggy, Broadstreet; Louisa, Payne; Adventure, Maynard; Sally, Scott; Sally, Buchanan; Nancy, Gray; and the Russia Merchant, Creamer, from Maryland. The Earl of Dunmore, Lawrence,

from New-York. The Harmony, Coffin; Three Brothers, Cartwright; London Packet, Caley; and the Rosamond, Miller, from Bolton. The London, Chambers, from North America. The Peter, Wboder; T'names, Wills; and the Canadian, Abbot, from Quebec.

To the PRINTERS of the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Not having been in any manner, directly or indirectly, concerned in any piece, that has appeared in your paper in regard to the present political contest, I hope you will give a place to the inclosed, in your next Gazette.

Feb. 14, 1773.

Malevolo nihil acerbius, imperitio nihil injustius, homine impudante nihil molestius. Macrobi. de Mor. Hum.

THE confederacy of inturiate malignancy, overweening ignorance, and habitual licentiousness, would be, indeed, formidable, if there were no other means of defence against its attacks, than to dissolve the union by softening rancour, correcting folly, and reforming profligacy; but, happily, little is to be dreaded from the alliance, when the aims of all its execution are easily exposed, and indignation, and contempt, ensuring the detection, can't fail to furnish ample succours to repel the outrage.

The restriction of the Officers (on the falling of the Inspection Law) by the Governor's Proclamation, has been represented to be a measure as arbitrary and tyrannical, as the assessment of Ship-money, in the time of Charles the First, not by fairly stating the nature of each transaction, and shewing the resemblance by comparison, to convince the understanding; but in the favourite method of illiberal calumny, virulent abuse, and shameful asseveration, to affect the passions.

Invererate malice, destitute of proofs, has invented falsehood, for incorrigible folly to adopt, and indurated impudence to propagate. As the artifice employed to raise alarm, can succeed only in the proportion that it deceives, it will be my endeavour to counteract the pestilent purpose, by presenting to the reader, for his candid examination, an impartial account of the Ship-money, and the Proclamation. King Charles, having determined to govern without a Parliament, had, against the fundamental principles of a free constitution, recourse to the Prerogative for raising money on the subject, though in his answer to the Petition of Right, he had recently bound himself not to levy any tax upon the people without the consent of both Houses of Parliament. In pursuance of this scheme of tyranny, Ship-money was raised on the whole kingdom. The method taken upon was, a rate, or proportion on each county, which was afterwards assessed upon the individuals of each. The sum raised was about £.200,000 sterling. Writs were issued, directing the tax to be levied by the sheriffs, and requiring them to execute the effects of the people for the purpose, and to commit to prison all who should oppose the tax, there to remain, till the King should give order for their delivery.

The necessity, of taking measures of defence against enemies, was alleged as a justification of the arbitrary proceeding; but, "it was a fictitious, pretended necessity: for England was in no danger from enemies"—on the contrary enjoyed a profound peace with all her neighbours, who were engaged in furious, and bloody wars, and by their mutual enmities further secured her tranquillity. The writs, which issued for levying the Ship-money, contradicted the supposition of necessity, and pretended only that the seas were infested with pirates, a slight, and temporary inconvenience, which might well have waited a legal tax laid by Parliament—besides the writs allowed several months for equipping the ships, much beyond the 40 days requisite for summoning the Parliament, and the pretended necessity was continued for near four years.—Such, in substance, was the affair of Ship money, the exaction, which Mr. Hampden opposed with the energetic firmness of genuine patriotism.

That the reader may compare the two measures, and be the better able to judge of their similarity, I shall recite the Governor's Proclamation, which was in these words:

"Being desirous to prevent any oppressions and exactions from being committed, under colour of office, by any of the Officers and Ministers of this province, and every of them, their deputies, or substitutes, in exacting unreasonable and excessive fees from the good people thereof, I have thought fit, with the advice of his Lordship's Council of State, to issue this my Proclamation, and I do hereby therefore order and direct, that from and after the publication hereof, no Officer nor Officers (the Judges of the Land-office excepted, who are subject to other regulation to them given in charge) their deputies, or substitutes, by reason or colour of his office, or their office, or offices, have, receive, demand, or take, of any person or persons, directly or indirectly, any other, or greater fees than by an Act of Assembly of this province, intitled *An Act for amending the staple of tobacco, for preventing frauds in his Majesty's customs, and for the limitation of Officers fees*, were limited and allowed, or take or receive of any person or persons, on immediate payment (in case payment shall be made in money) any larger fee, than after the rate of twelve shillings and six-pence common current money for 100lb. of tobacco, under the pain of my displeasure. And to the intent that all persons concerned may have due notice thereof, I do strictly charge and require the several sheriffs of this province to make this my Proclamation publick in their respective counties, in the usual manner, as they will answer the contrary at their peril."

It must be allowed, that the table of fees, in the late Inspection Law, was the most moderate of any ever established in the province—and that the Officers are entitled to satisfaction for the services they perform.