

A treaty of commerce is now, it is said, on the tapis, between the courts of London and Berlin. One of the prime objects of this treaty is relative to the establishment of two companies at Koningsburgh and Stetin, for the sale of salt and tobacco.

A council is summoned to meet at St. James's tomorrow, relative to American affairs.

Two motions of a distinct kind, but of very singular importance, are expected to be made on Thursday next in the upper assembly.

By a letter from Dublin we hear, that on Sunday, the 2d instant, Sir Edward Newenham, knight and alderman Geale, the unsuccessful candidate at the late election there, met at an appointed place in consequence of a challenge sent by the former to adjust some punctilios that happened at the said election, but after Sir Edward had snapped his pistol twice at the alderman, which providentially missed fire, by the interposition of the seconds, the affair was amicably adjusted.

Jan. 15. Yesterday Lord Guernsey reported from the committee appointed by the house of commons to draw up an address in answer to his majesty's most gracious speech from the throne, a draught of the said intended answer, which being read and agreed to, it was resolved that such members as are of his majesty's privy council do wait on him, in order to know his pleasure when the house shall wait on his majesty with the said address.

This day the house of commons will meet in order to have his majesty's answer to the above message.

Yesterday at noon the lord chancellor, attended by several of the lords, went to St. James's, and presented the humble address of the lords spiritual and temporal; when his majesty returned a most gracious answer.

A cabinet council will be held on Wednesday next at St. James's, on affairs of great importance.

By the last accounts from Transylvania it is believed, that general Komanzoff will be obliged to quit his present situation, and take up his winter quarters at the other side of the Danube.

Translation of a private letter, dated Venice, Dec. 23.

"The several nobles of our senate, partizans of the French interest, that have lately caused such confusion in our councils, are banished for life to Corsu, excepting three noble personages now confined in the dungeons of St. Mark, whose fate as yet remains undetermined by the supreme council. The charge being now fully proved, they were bribed by the emissaries of France. Our political agitation is now calmed, and the republic unanimously rejoice in our having acceded to the grand alliance, by which we regain the Morza, and our ancient territories in the Adriatic. Our fleet to join the Russian consists of these ships:—San Marco 90 guns; Giorgio, S. Antonio, Santa Croce, S. Giovanni, S. Pietro, La Magdalena, S. Francesco, La S. Maria, S. Eufemia, S. Teresa, La Vittoria, S. Agnese, S. Rinaldo, S. Barnaba, S. Margarita, S. Rocco, S. Stefano, S. Paolo, and S. Philippo de Neri, 74 guns each; besides transports, frigates, and six bomb vessels. The Russians have, during these last three months, landed at Corsu eleven thousand sailors, partly Russians, Dutch, Danes, Swedes, and French, with some Portuguese. Here, with a corps of five thousand marine troops, Greeks and Albanians, will, with our own sailors, complete the armament."

Jan. 17. The humble address of the house of commons was presented to his majesty on Saturday last; to which his majesty was pleased to return a very gracious answer.

We hear that the ministry have, at length, found out their mistake, in making a law, which left so much power in the hands of the India proprietors. So determined are those orators on the annihilation of the company, that the length of rope left them by the act, serves them only for hanging themselves. Mad men must have all the means of death taken out of their hands.

There is no probability of a peace between the Russians and the Turks. The first are determined to have something; and the latter from an established maxim of their empire, are resolved to give nothing. Neither Varna is blockaded nor Silistria taken; and some persons affirm, that Komanzoff must re-pass the Danube.

The intention of the Russians after the taking of Varna was to order their fleet to pass the Dardanelles, while their army advanced by land; the possession of Varna would have given them an opportunity for transporting their artillery and baggage by sea. The defeat of their small squadron in the Black Sea last, for the present, broke their measures.

There is no truth in a certain ambassador's imprisonment; but there is a certainty, that he shall never return to this place in a public capacity.

There is now a moral certainty that East-India affairs will again come into parliament. The ministry have the majority in the India house. But they are like sheep without a shepherd, having no orator of distinguished abilities to lay the matter in an intelligible manner before them. Neither Moor nor Holdforth will do. The first is mere noise; the latter all dullness. The discordant rhetoric of the patriotic duke will always get the better of the mean, accommodating concessions of retainers of neither knowledge nor prudence.

The demand for an addition to the civil list is put off till a household is to be established for the prince of Wales; an event not a twelvemonth distant.

Some politicians form prognostics of the permanency of the premier's administration from his having placed his father in the closet of a great lady; while others blame him for converting a parent into a kind of domestic steward in his old age.

Great changes in the law were expected. Lord Mansfield, by Sir Fletcher Norton's disinterestedness, was solicited to be chancellor, that the knight might step into the king's bench. The storm, which threatened the present chancellor, is blown over for the present.

Lord Chatham is not to be in town this season. The Rockingham party have lost all hopes. Temple himself has now despaired of being sent for. Burke thinks he belched his oratory for nothing. Clive reposts himself, like a sampan, escaped from a storm, on a plank.

Silence will prevail in St. Stephen's. Even Parliament-street will not have its pavement torn as usual with jehelike orators driving to the house. All is tranquillity and stillness. But this quiet serenity, says our correspondent, may be the prelude to a storm.

Extract of a letter from Warsaw, Jan. 1.

The ministers of the three powers have just made a proposal to the delegation from their respective courts, which it is much wished may be accepted, as it may be instrumental in finally settling the distressed affairs of this kingdom. The courts of Vienna, Petersburg, and Berlin, have offered each to maintain in this city four ministers at their own expence, who, in conjunction with his Polish majesty, and the delegates from the grand dyet, are to regulate the finances, commerce, and all the unsettled matters.

The accounts of the late fire in the Tower have been variously represented, the following particulars have been collected, and are more exact than any yet published:

On Saturday, the day before the fire broke out, some persons were alarmed with an unusual smell of something burning, and about eleven o'clock that night sought from whence it came in vain. About the same time, a warder and his wife passed by the house where it began; she said there was a smell of fire; no, no, he replied, you have always a fire in your nose I think, and passed on.

The next morning, Mr. Woodard (at whose house it broke out) heard the clock strike six whilst in bed, and immediately thereupon heard a cracking, and awaked Mrs. Woodard with his suspicions of fire, and they both instantly got up and came down stairs, finding his suspicions too true; he opened the door of the parlour (under which it is supposed the fire began) and the heat and flames were so intense, as almost to strike him down; he got to the door again and hastily called to the rest of the family, apprising them of their great danger, and urging them to flight: they all came down and reached the front or outer door, but unfortunately Miss Woodward and Miss Jennings both went up stairs for some things they particularly valued, and in the mean time the fire became so violent, below, as deterred all from entering, or any escaping from the house. They flew to the leads at the top of the house for refuge, and were instantly followed by the flames, which made their situation so hot and frightful, as not long to be endured. Their cries and contortions filled the heart of every beholder with the deepest concern.

Miss Woodward first took the resolution to throw herself from the dreadful height, and was taken up in a manner dead, carried to a house, (Mr. Vidgen's) hard by, and from thence presently removed to another (Mrs. Johnson's, adjoining to Sir Charles Frederick's) where the soon expired in great agonies. Miss Jennings remained until her flesh was burnt in many parts, and was then carried upon a barrack bed. One of her arms was however terribly burnt and bruised. She is attended by Dr. Brown, who set her arm, and there are hopes of her recovery.

From the house where the fire began, it presently communicated to queen Elizabeth's Tower (so called from that princess's having been imprisoned there) and the house of Mr. Sharp, from these different ways to major Collins's, Mr. Wittwers and Mr. Durnford's, and slightly touching the ordnance office, was most miraculously and to the astonishment of all beholders, extinguished.

Mr. Burke being asked on Friday his opinion of a certain speech, replied, "it is a golden one."

On Sunday the patience of the speaker of the house of commons was entirely spent before a sufficient number of members could be procured to constitute a house; the messengers were sent to the treasury, admiralty, and the coffee-houses near the palace for that purpose, and it was full half after two before the speaker took the chair; as soon as they returned from St. James's his majesty's answer to the address was reported, and the house, without doing any other business, adjourned to this day.

The first business of any consequence intended to be taken up in the upper assembly is, we hear, the petition of the dissenters.

The intended act for the regulation of the coin means to fix the following weights and allowances for reasonable wear: five penny weights, three grains, for all guineas coined before the reign of the late king; five penny weights six grains, from that period to the sixth of his present majesty; and from the latter to the present time, the full standard.

The loss on the whole arising from the above regulation, it is computed, will not amount to more than 40,000l. whereas the loss to the holders of money, according to the act of last session, amounted to 300,000l. or near 12 per cent. on 2,500,000l. light money paid into the bank, &c.

Very flattering offers have been lately made to a certain duke in the neighbourhood of Privy Gardens, but, it is said, he has totally declined them.

The count de Noailles is the person generally thought on as successor to the count de Guignes as ambassador to this court; two others are, however, spoke of on this occasion.

Lord Apley has, with the assistance of Mr. Prescott, formed a new set of laws for the preventing of fraudulent bankruptcies, which Mr. Prescott will lay before the house some time this week.

We hear that Sir Watkin Lewis intends preferring his petition, in behalf of himself and the independent freemen of the city of Worcester, on Wednesday next; which petition, it is expected, will disclose some very notorious instances of bribery and corruption.

Dr. F. was on Thursday last examined before the privy council, touching the unfortunate letters that have given rise to a late duel, by which that mysterious business is likely soon to be cleared up.

Extract of a letter from Casper, Jan. 13.

Wednesday two express arrived here; one to the commissioner, giving him orders to supply the Russian fleet with every kind of stores and provisions that may be necessary; the other was to the Russian ambassador, who is at the George Inn here.

"The ships in the harbour are sitting for head. A private express arrived at the commissioners' office last night, which is thought to be an order for fitting 15 full of the line ready for commission, in case they should shortly be called for.

"Yesterday all the Russian transports sailed with a fair wind for Pharos.

"We hear the Russian men of war will be ready for sea in about a week's time, as their bottoms are very good, and they want only their decks and upper works to be caulked. Those ships are to be supplied with the new constructed pumps and patent blocks."

Extract of an authentic letter from a general officer at Larva, Genkoff in Silistia, December 29.

"The Russians have taken Silistria by storm; the acquisition cost them dear, but the massacre of the Turks has been dreadful. Wama has capitulated; and the marshal Romanzoff means to fix his winter quarters at Schenna, on the other side of the Danube. You may depend upon the authenticity of this news, and will conclude with me, that *conciamatum* of the Turkish empire."

A letter from Warsaw says, it was reported there, that the Russians at the siege of Silistria had the good fortune to blow up the gunpowder magazine of the fort; and in the mean time that the garrison and the inhabitants, in the utmost confusion, were very busy in extinguishing the violent fire which was occasioned by it; the Russians, at the same time, took advantage of the opportunity, and took the fortress by storm.

The rebellion of the combined Cossacks and Tartars in Moscow, of which some of the foreign gazettes give a deficient account (asserting that it was immediately appeased) we are informed is of great consequence. According to our advices this insurrection was caused by the vigorous pressing of men at Casan and its environs; and that the number of the combined rebels consists of above 12,000 men, General Brand, the commander of that place, joined by captain Orenberg, who had his regiment cantoned in that neighbourhood, went with their troops against the rebels, in order to bring them under subjection; but not expecting the rebels to be so numerous, their troops were defeated, and both the celebrated officers were killed in the engagement; which success raised the spirit of the rebels so, that a vast number more have joined them, and they are actually marching towards the city of Moscow; they rob and plunder all the villages where they pass, and behave to the inhabitants in a most cruel manner, which event greatly alarms the court of Petersburg; so that all the troops in the neighbourhood of that residence are ordered to enter into the city; even the regiment of Petersburg, commanded by captain Szeplow, and the regiments of the Hungarian hussars of captain Drevits, who were at Warsaw, have of late received orders to return, and march to Petersburg as speedily as possible.

Yesterday the speaker of the house of commons was almost at as great a loss for a sufficient number of members to make a house as on Saturday. He was enabled, however, to take the chair a little before three; when, after very little business being done, the house adjourned till to-morrow.

Yesterday several petitions were presented to the house of commons, particularly from the merchants, traders, &c. of the counties of York, Lincoln, Nottingham, and Derby, relative to the navigation of the rivers Aire and Calder.

The Salisbury journal confirms the account, that on Sunday the 9th, between three and four in the morning, a sudden fire broke out at the seat of the hon. Mr. Fox, at Winterlow, which in a few hours burnt the same to the ground, except the kitchen, which being a detached building, escaped the flames. Most of the plate, pictures, and valuable furniture, were saved.

The speaker having reported to the house his majesty's answer to their address of Saturday, the house then resolved itself into a committee to consider of the motion made last Saturday, and came to a resolution that a supply be granted to his majesty; which resolution is to be reported to-morrow.

ANNAPOLIS, March 24.

The General Assembly of this province was to have met here on Monday last, but the bad weather having prevented the attendance of a sufficient number of members to compose a lower house until yesterday, his Excellency was then pleased to open the session with the following SPEECH.

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly,

I HAVE nothing at this time particularly to propose to your consideration, which would not be a repetition of what I recommended at the opening of last session; but, having obtained permission to return to England for a short time on account of some affairs which require my personal attendance there, I presumed it would be agreeable to you to conyue before my departure, and therefore now meet you, and shall with the greatest pleasure be ready to co-operate with you in establishing such regulations as may be conducive to the welfare of this province.

CUSTOM-HOUSE ENTERED.

Ship Lord Dunluce, Robert Shutter, from Larne.
Ship Polly, James McArthur, from Cork.
Brig Etty, Richard Robinson, from London.
Snow Peggy, Alexander Ferguson, from London.

CLEARRED.

Snow Farmer, Zedekiah Wesley, for London.
Schooner Betty, Silas Nowell, for Cadix.
Schooner Hawke, Benjamin West, for Salem.
Schooner Lempel, James Armour, for Virginia.
Schooner Julia, John Meador, for Boston.

ERRATUM in the former part of Dr. Howard's second letter to Dr. Whitchurch.

For, the third returning by the same way into the right article in last issue, read, by the same way, but the first article in the present issue.