

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1783.

CONSTANTINOPLE, September 10.

THE divan hath been continually assembled for eight days past, but hath not determined whether the Porte shall enter into a war with Russia. It is openly avowed, that the grand seignior is in want of money and shipping; nevertheless the people continue to demand a war, especially since it is known that the court of Petersburg is desirous of re-establishing the former chain of the Crimea. In the mean time the guards are doubled at the seraglio, some acts of violence on the part of the people and the janissaries are feared; from whence it is easy to conceive in what a critical situation we are here. We have not only before our eyes the ruin of 40,000 houses consumed by fire, but very lately the barracks of the janissaries were destroyed by the same calamity, as well as the vast magazines which contained provisions for a month for the whole garrison of this capital. This city consumes 96,000 measures of grain weekly; and as the exportation of corn from Russia hath been forbidden by way of the Black Sea, a famine is greatly dreaded, the usual consequences of which are despair and revolt, especially in the present unhappy circumstances, when the minds of the people are in a ferment.

PETERSBURGH, OS. 8. Divers regiments are assembling at Mohilow, and marching thence successively for the frontiers of Turkey, from whence it appears that a war is expected against the Porte.

VIENNA, OS. 16. All the emperor's troops, except the corps of artillery, have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to march; and every district of the hereditary countries are ordered to supply the public magazines with grain of all sorts. By letters from Petersburg and Berlin, which mention the number of Russian and Prussian couriers passing and repassing since the second of this month, it appears that peace cannot long continue in the North.

OS. 19. The last letters from Constantinople advise, that tranquillity is far from being restored. The people strongly contend, that the new chain of Tartary shall be supported against the efforts of the court of Petersburg. Several hordes of Besbarabia and other Tartars having assembled, formed an army of 100,000 men, which, it is said, have been beaten and put to flight by a body of 15,000 Russians.

HAMBURG, OS. 21. According to authentic advices, some great changes have taken place in the dispositions of a certain court, which, it is added, will produce some very considerable alterations in the political system of Europe.

The last letters from Poland announce that affairs are treating of in the diet with the utmost harmony and moderation.

PARIS, OS. 20. We are positively assured that the count d'Estaing will have the command of the Windward Islands; he is set out from Madrid, from whence he will go to Cadiz to embark. M. de Barras will join him with 12 ships of the line, now sitting out at Brest with the greatest expedition. This squadron will take on board 4000 men; four other regiments will embark at Toulon; and it is added, that count d'Estaing will also take four other regiments which are now at the camp at St. Roch.

Letters from Brest advise, that a small squadron will immediately cruise in the chops of the Channel. This squadron will, it is said, be furnished with balls of a new invention.

OS. 24. The negotiations for peace seem to be broken up; the propositions made on the part of the court of London, in the conferences which have been opened, are rejected. The contents of these propositions are not mentioned.

OS. 25. Last Sunday a deputation from the clergy, with the cardinal de Rochefoucault at their head, who acted as speaker, presented to the king a free gift of 15 millions, payable in three years, to repair the loss which the nation sustained on the 14th of April, and one million more towards the support of the widows and orphans of the killed. The king seems highly pleased with this instance of the patriotism of the clergy.

OS. 28. Mr. Fitzherbert hath received the answer of his court with respect to the last propositions; but it is not yet communicated to the courts of Vienna and Petersburg, as mediatorial powers, the English minister will probably wait some time before the delivery of the ultimatum; from whence it may be concluded, that even though all difficulties may be made easy, the work of peace will still meet with a long delay.

OS. 31. In the night of Monday last, a courier extraordinary arrived with dispatches from St. Roch, dated the 19th instant. The news received hath put an end to reciprocal inquietudes. The English fleet and the Straits in the night between the 18th and 19th, M. de Cordoba resolved to give them battle, and was in pursuit of them, but Lord Howe being inferior in force, availed himself of a thick fog, turned round the combined fleet, and stole a march, by this manoeuvre he avoided an engagement, and regained the ocean. It is believed that the combined fleet is in pursuit of that of the English. One circumstance particularly pleases our news writers, which is, that Lord Howe carried off with him in triumph, a Spanish ship, which the storm had driven on the 12th to Europa point. The princes have quitted the camp of St. Roch, and are expected here in a few days.

HAGUE, OS. 17. The prince stadtholder hath judged it necessary to establish a committee of five members to assist him in his important and numerous occupations by their advice relative to marine affairs. The five members are, Messrs. Wykerhold, Biidom, and Vander Hoop, advocates fiscal of the college of admiralty, in the department of the Meuse and Amsterdam, the vice-admirals Reynst and Zoutman, and rear-admiral Van Ixnhilbergen, all of the latter department.

Nov. 5. We have received a confirmation of the deplorable news of the loss of the Union man of war, of 64 guns, in the North sea, on the 19th of October; in sight of two other ships of the state, and all the crew perished.

MADRID, OS. 7. The last letters from Andalusia have brought the most exact lists of the killed, wounded, and prisoners, in the fatal expedition of the floating batteries. The number of killed is 407, wounded 700, drowned 150, prisoners 173. Total 1530.

LONDON, November 1.

A private letter from Paris says, that Messrs. Fitzherbert and Oswald, on the part of Great Britain, Dr. Franklin and Mr. Jay, for America, count de Aranda, for Spain, and M. de Berckenrode, for Holland, have had another conference with the French ministry, relative to a peace, but some fresh obstacles were started by the court of France, on which they broke up without coming to any determination, and the Spanish ambassador, who was somewhat displeased, immediately sent off dispatches to Madrid. The letter says, that there must be some warm work before the French and Dutch will agree to a peace, unless they have their own demands complied with.

Nov. 5. On Friday afternoon, as a country clergyman was looking at a print shop on Ludgate-hill, a sharper took off his hat, and run away; the gentleman followed him; but being corpulent, could reach no further than the archway which leads into Doctors Commons. Here a comrade of the robber accosted him, and requested to know what was the matter; when the parson, panting and blowing, told him the case, that he was robbed, and had lost his breath in pursuing the sharper. "What, (cried the other) could not you run any further?" "No, Sir, not an inch," (said the other.) "Why then, Sir, (said he) I'll make free with your wig," which he accordingly did, and disappeared in an instant.

ANTIGUA, November 2

From a late London paper.

The following intelligence, as we have it from the first authority, we can assure our readers may be depended on.

About six weeks before Christmas last, a woman, about 40 years of age, who called herself the hon. Mrs. A. was introduced to the then premier, at his house in Downing-street, on the recommendation of an American refugee of very celebrated reputation, as a person of the most exquisite abilities at intrigue. Our spies at the court of Versailles, had about that time become too notorious, or had been so idle as not to have informed government of many matters, which were absolutely necessary to be known. Mrs. A. on her first interview with lord N. discovered such an uncommon genius in the line of finesse, that she was afterwards introduced to other members of cabinet, and at last to the king himself. In about six weeks, after several audiences, it was found she could be made useful, and, upon her own offer, she was sent to Brussels, with proper appointments, and a select company of chosen servants. After a fortnight's stay in that city she removed to Paris, and under pretence that the environs of that city agreed with her health, she took an house in Nougat de Louis XVth, and set up a plain equipage: she frequented all public places occasionally, and was at the court on all public days; at last, she never missed of being at all the queen's concerts, as well as those of the princes of the blood, and had a great number of herself publicly presented as an American woman of fashion, perfectly unacquainted with the French tongue: she was constantly at Franklin's levee, and at that of those ministers of Louis XVth, as being a supposed stranger to the French language. It happened that she frequently came into the choicest secrets of the court of Versailles, which she constantly dispatched with the utmost secrecy and haste to London, by the way of Ostend. At last, from her very curious enquiries, though done with the utmost art, and the appearance of innocence, she began to be suspected, and one day in the middle of the last month, while she was at court, a messenger was sent to her house, who took possession; luckily she had an item of it by a gentleman at Paris, who, though not on so hazardous a business, had employments at Paris; she accordingly disguised herself, and leaving her household, and all her valuables behind, came safe to Dunkirk, from whence she got a pass to Ostend, and on Sunday the 3rd of June arrived in London, having narrowly escaped a public execution as a female spy.

It was through this lady's intelligence, that such complete information was gained of the sailing of the Brest fleet for the East Indies, whereby admirals Kempenfelt and Barrington made such valuable captures, and frustrated the designs of our enemies in that quarter. She is said to have obtained a complete account of the manner in which the siege of Gibraltar was to be carried on; and also some American intelligence of the first water.

"A pension is settled upon her, out of the king's purse, of 1000. per annum, with which she is retired to Cornwall, the country of her nativity."

PHILADELPHIA, January 14.

In the Ostend cutter, which arrived at Baltimore on Wednesday last, came passenger Mr. Miller, late printer of the London evening post, and also of the London courier, who for these fifteen years past, has so freely exercised the liberty of the press, to the advantage of his country and honour to himself, but particularly in asserting and defending the cause of America. Mr. Miller comes over with the good wishes of the hon. Mr. Laurens, in whose happy deliverance he was particularly instrumental. In our next we are promised to be able to assign the motives which induced Mr. Miller to make this visit to the continent of America.

The advices we have been favoured with by the above vessel, respecting the continuation of the war, are in substance, that the idea of the best success in England, respecting peace, was as vague as it is among the people of this country. The negotiation was in train at the time the above vessel left Europe. But as it had been made throughout a parliamentary war, the result of the whole was intended to be submitted to it on the first meeting. It would assemble on the 28th of November, eight days after the departure of the Ostend; the work of peace would then be brought forward and canvassed; the adjournment would soon after follow; and their resolves on the business could not take place till near the latter end of the present month.

So far from the negotiation having been broke up, as has been reported, the ports of Calais and Dover had just been opened for the admission of the passage boats of both countries; and it was even expected that the letters of each would be permitted to pass. But notwithstanding the promising appearance of peace, no relaxation of the means of war on any part had taken place: on the contrary, every power was straining the last nerve, to be well prepared for the opening of the campaign of the new year. May the efforts of America not be the last nor the least.

By an accident the above vessel does not bring the English official advices of the relief of Gibraltar, nor of the engagement which followed between the combined fleets and the English; however, the following is the substance of the English account: the attack by the floating batteries, was made on the 13th of September. While they were stationing and mooring, which took up nearly three hours, not a gun was fired from the garrison: when that was completed, a most tremendous fire of red hot balls took place. Several of the vessels were blown up, and the rest sunk. The above floating batteries carried 213 brass cannon, and each gun had an allotment of 30 men, 320 of the whole number of which, the English account says, were saved by the exertions they made.

Lord Howe arrived in the Straits on the 14th; the combined fleet were then at Algeiras. The official account says, that from a want of attention to the directions which had been given the transports, only four got in; the rest, with Lord Howe's fleet, were driven, by a very strong current and blowing weather, beyond Europa point, and behind the rock. The next and following day the remainder, except one, were all got in. The weather and winds had been dreadful, in which both fleets had suffered.

After the English had completed the relief of the garrison, Lord Howe sailed out of the Straits, followed by the combined fleet. On the 17th, about six o'clock in the evening, an engagement took place, and continued for more than two hours, when both fleets separated. The line of each fleet, and the attack was at a considerable distance. The English official account says, that Lord Howe laid to, and that during the night the combined fleet had sailed for Cadiz. The loss on the part of the English was about 60 men killed and 150 wounded. No ships on either side were taken; but a few days before, during the gale, the St. Michael, a fine ship of 70 guns, had run on shore near Europa point, within reach of one of the batteries of the garrison, who took possession, and got her off with little less loss than her mate.

Lord Howe says the combined fleet consisted of 48 sail; the Ghent paper says there were only 32; the English 34.

The place of the engagement between the two fleets is just at the entrance of the Straits, between the two continents of Europe and Africa, Cape Trefular, in Spain, forming one side, and Cape Sparte, in Africa, the other.

Lord Howe had arrived at Portsmouth, and afterwards in London, previous to the sailing of the Ostend, after leaving 15 sail to cruise in the chops of the Channel.

The above vessel, in which Mr. Miller came passenger, was chased off the capes of Virginia for four hours by an English 74, but being within a few leagues of the land, after firing near 100 shot, they jacked about, and gave up the pursuit.

ANNAPOLIS, January 25.

On Monday morning last arrived here, on her way to Baltimore, a small privateer from New-York, of three guns and twenty or thirty men, prize to the letter of marque schooner Antelope, captain Garbon.

The general assembly of this state, stands adjourned, till the 1st Monday in April, and the house of delegates to the first Monday in May next.