

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, SEPTEMBER 4, 1783.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 15.

THE conferences between the divan and the Russian envoy seem not to be yet terminated. Though the present grand vizier endeavours as much as possible to inspire the subjects of the grand seignior with pacific sentiments, he neglects nothing on the other hand for the re-establishment of the forces, and the finances of the empire. Great reforms have taken place in the corps of janissaries, formerly so redoubtable, but now so disorderly, that officers can hardly be found who are willing to command them.

FRANKFORT, June 3. It is given out here, that an assistant of the famous chevalier Tott, inspector-general of the artillery at Constantinople, is actually at Paris incog. with several other persons, charged with secret commissions from the Porte. It is certain that France cannot see with indifference the movements making in the north against the Ottoman empire. We know that other maritime states, England and Holland, are also greatly interested in events that would alter the whole system and direction of commerce.

VENICE, May 8. The government hath received the disagreeable news, that on the 26th of March last, the island of St. Mary was almost entirely destroyed, and particularly the castle, by a violent earthquake. It is computed that 26 persons lost their lives, and 43 were maimed. This earthquake was felt with equal violence in the other islands belonging to this republic, viz. Zante, Cefalonia, Previsa, and Veniza, where, however, we do not hear much damage has been done.

L O N D O N, May 27.

Letters received from Ireland mention, that earl Temple had positively declared, unless his successor should very soon arrive, he would appoint lords justices to superintend the government of the kingdom.

May 31. Monday night the 26th instant a very respectable jury, summoned by the coroner, sat upon the body of John Powell, Esq; at his house in Bennet-street, St. James's, who that morning had, through extreme depression of spirits and despondency, put an end to his unhappy life; when it appeared, upon the clearest evidence, given by Mr. Rigby, Mr. Burke, Mr. Woodhouse, and divers other witnesses, that the deceased, since the time of his examination before the lords of the treasury, has been generally in a state of insanity. The jury unanimously brought in their verdict lunacy.

The manner in which the unhappy Mr. Powell made his final exit was this: he had placed two chairs with their bottoms close together, near his bed, and an utensil on the floor; designing, as it is presumed, to lean over the chairs, cut his throat, and let the blood run into the prepared vessel. He walked, however, to the other end of the room, and there began the perpetration of the deed, which he had not completed so as to prevent his returning towards the chairs, but he fell down just as he nearly approached them, and expired on the floor. The penknife with which he effected his purpose was found in his hand; and his night-cap extremely bloody, lay at that part of the chamber where he made the first attempt. This happened about three o'clock on Monday morning. Thus expired Mr. Powell, after a life of great industry to acquire riches, and singular success in obtaining them. His fate exhibits a striking instance of the inefficacy of money to procure content, when the moral character is tainted with reproach.

Although the criminal prosecution commenced against Mr. Powell ends of course, yet a civil suit will be instituted against Mr. Bembridge.

The late unfortunate Mr. Powell of the pay-office, has left behind him no less a sum than £. 300,000, which as he died without issue, will be equally divided amongst six distant relations.

ExtraB of a letter from Madras, dated October 17.

"This coast has been visited by as severe a gale of wind as ever was known by the oldest inhabitant of Madras. About noon on the 15th it began to blow, and before night it was a perfect hurricane. The surf was so high, that it was impossible any boat could either go off, or come on shore. Very fortunately Sir Edward Hughes had anchored in fifteen fathom water, and finding the gale increase, he put to sea in the afternoon. He had an entertainment on board the Sutherland, and was obliged to take his company to sea with him. In the night the Hertford, the Free Trader, the Shannon, the Nancy, the Essex, and a Moorman's ship, were drove on shore. The Mason foundered at her anchors; and near one hundred snows and donies were entirely lost. It is impossible to describe a scene of such horror and distress: The howling of the wind, the roaring of the surf, with the cries of the drowning people, and the beach for some miles strewed with wrecks and dead bodies! The Neckar lost her main-mast, and the Beaton was entirely dismantled.

The Active frigate arrived last night from the fleet, and brings intelligence that the Superbe had lost her main and mizen-masts, and had been in very great danger. Very fortunately none of the other ships received

any material injury. Sir Edward Hughes has shifted his flag on board the Sultan.

Extract of a letter from an officer in the East India company's service, dated Bencoolen, Ap. 13, 1783.

"On Monday the 18th of March, at half past two in the morning, it having been exceeding stormy the evening before, our magazine and laboratory were fired by lightning, the former containing about 400, and the latter 100 barrels of powder, and every implement of artillery, was totally destroyed.

"I was in bed at my own house, which was not quite 150 yards from the place where the magazine stood, and plainly saw the flash, which burst upon the shutters, and extinguished a lamp I had burning in my chamber; immediately after the roof of my house fell in, and buried me in the ruins, but as it consisted chiefly of bamboo, I was not hurt: I contrived, I know not how, to get into my hall, the floor of which I found covered with broken glass from the fall of the lamps, and lantern that had been in it: Here I remained for some time, not knowing what to do, whether to remain in the house, or run out, it then raining excessively. All this time I imagined that my house only had suffered, supposing it had been struck with lightning. At length I saw a light in the fort, which increased very fast, and a serjeant came running to acquaint me, that the seapoy barracks had taken fire, and immediately after the drums beat to arms. I went to the fort—but what a scene was there!—It was next to impossible to describe it. The barracks torn to pieces—the men under arms half naked—and the fire burning furiously. Notwithstanding the heavy rain which then fell, it continued till near six in the morning, when it was burnt out, not a part of the seapoy barracks being left.

On my return to my own house, I found not a room in it had escaped, nor a lock or bolt but what was forced open, every shutter and door split to pieces, and the furniture all broke, or spoiled by the explosion or rain; the roof and sides full of holes, from the vast quantity of shot and brick-bats that had gone through them; the paper ripped off in a thousand places: In short, the house, which though about four months before, cost me 750 Spanish dollars, was not in its present state worth 200. What is most extraordinary is, that though innumerable shot and brick-bats were flying about, not a single European received any hurt from them. Almost every house in the settlement was nearly ruined, all the plaster being stripped off, the glasses, shades, and china, entirely destroyed. The company's loss, exclusive of individuals, is estimated at 90,000 dollars. The only lives lost are four seapoys and two women. Picture to yourself our situation—surrounded by the most treacherous set of rascals under the sun, with only 43 half barrels of powder remaining, and not a single cartridge made up, except a very few which the men had in their pouches. However, the natives did not think proper to attack us."

June 5. The proposition from France at present under consideration, in relation to the commercial intercourse between the two countries is, that the Bourdeaux wines shall be put upon the same footing as those of Portugal, while the rest of French wines shall remain as they are; and in return the hardware of England should be subjected to a duty of 20 per cent. only, instead of the prohibition which now operates on it.

June 7. Yesterday the first stone was laid for building a new bridge from Brentford to Kew, in the room of the present wooden one, which is to be taken down.

June 9. It is said the whole of the proceedings in the pending negotiation, respecting the commercial treaties between America, Holland, and Great-Britain, are to be submitted to the inspection of parliament; official documents being in preparation for that purpose.

June 13. It is said the dissolution of the Irish parliament will take place the first week of next month, and writs immediately issued for calling a new parliament to meet the 14th of October.

Advices were yesterday received, at the India house, and at the office of Mr. secretary Fox, with the information of the safe arrival of the last outward bound East-India fleet at the Brazils. This fleet, consisting of 13 sail, besides convoy, sailed from Portsmouth, in company with lord Howe, when he went to the relief of Gibraltar, and no subsequent advices have been received respecting them, since they parted with his lordship. Several of the ships have been very sickly, more particularly the Beborough, captain Todd, in which no less than eighty people have died in the course of the passage. The above accounts are brought by a Portuguese ship, which arrived at an English port on Tuesday last.

June 16. It is the intention of government to form new continental connections, which will be strengthened by marriages, and rendered mutually advantageous, by benefits more precious and less expensive to this country, than those which we formerly enjoyed. The visit of the bishop of Osnaburgh to the court of Berlin, had other objects besides a military review; and the world will very soon hear of an union, from which very material weight will be acquired in Germany, to operate against the machinations of the French, if by the folly and weakness of the late treaties, we shall be again suddenly involved in a war with them.

Notwithstanding the great quantities of Spanish dollars that are daily arriving in the kingdom, sterling silver still continues at the enormous price of near six shillings the ounce. This arises from the following

causes: first, great quantities of dollars have, for some time, been sending aboard, to pay our soldiers and sailors; and, secondly, monied people have entered into combinations to buy up dollars in very large quantities immediately upon their arrival; so that the manufacturers cannot procure silver to work up, without paying for it at an extravagant rate. Hence the platemaking branch still continues in a very languishing state.

A letter from Copenhagen says, "the general subject of conversation here, is the revival of the magnificent project formed some years ago, for uniting the Baltick with the German ocean, by means of a cut through the duchies of Holstein and Sleswick, which will assuredly be carried into execution, provided other powers will consent to discharge such a part of the expence as may be proportioned to the commercial advantages they will respectively derive, from opening this grand communication."

Letters from Philadelphia say, that a large fund is raising among the capital merchants of that and some other American cities, for the purpose of stocking a considerable portion of the circumjacent pasturage with the species of horned cattle abounding in that part of America which is inhabited by the Illinois Indians. These animals are thickly clothed with wool, said to be of quality little inferior to that of English sheep.

Advices from Paris of the 2d of June mention, that eight days ago, a letter had been received from a general officer at Vienna, dated the 13th of last month, who gave it as his opinion, that a war between Russia and the Porte was inevitable; but that it was a doubtful matter whether the emperor would soon engage in it or not. Farther information received the next day stated, that Russia was determined to attack the grand seignior, and that the troops were about to enter the Crimea; nevertheless, the last advices from Constantinople seemed not to consider a rupture by any means as certain. It is true, that this opinion was principally founded upon the emperor's conduct; and it must be owned that monarch appears not at all disposed to take any part in the war, and his return to Vienna seems a proof of it. The court of France is supposed to have influenced his imperial majesty on this subject, which appears to have given offence to the court of Russia. Last Tuesday night the two imperial ministers having been informed probably of the interference of France, dispatched a courier to Petersburg. They have since declared, but without mentioning that the troops of their sovereign were on the march, that it will be extremely difficult to avoid a rupture, the Porte not fulfilling its engagements. If therefore Russia should enter singly into a war, it will be every way under more disadvantageous circumstances than she began the last; the captain pacha, and the grand vizier, who at present have the command over the Ottomans, being of a very different disposition from the Oglos, who were suspected of having been corrupted; these ministers on the contrary, display the utmost assiduity, as well as policy, and give every encouragement to christian officers; there have already arrived at Constantinople, 25 officers of the navy, and 40 of the artillery. Prince Bariatinski, who was one of the foreign ministers, that most frequented the court, has not appeared at Versailles since the evening on which the Russian ministers sent off the courier to Petersburg. Mr. de Markoff has likewise relinquished his attendance at court ever since. Several persons have lately arrived from Petersburg, who all agree, that the French are treated with great coldness and disregard, in comparison with the attention shewn by the court to other foreigners, particularly the English, who receive every mark of respect and good will.

On Saturday se'nnight an express arrived to a private soldier in the 9th regiment of foot, quartered in Norwich, informing him of the death of his father, by which event he came into immediate possession of a fortune of more than £. 50,000. The above express was brought to Norwich by his lady, who arrived in her own carriage and four.

A few days ago died at her house on Epping forest, Mrs. Gahagan, a maiden lady, upwards of 87 years of age; her fortune, which is considerable, she has left to a niece who had lived with her near 40 years, but would never consent to her being married. She left six maidens, who were her tenant's daughters, £. 20 each, to hold up her pall, provided they swore themselves to be maids; one of them, however, declined accepting the legacy on the above terms.

June 18. The business of parliament will be hurried over with all possible dispatch, and the house break up early in the ensuing month; ministers feeling themselves becoming exceedingly unpopular, on account of their oppressive taxes. The sessions concluded, they think themselves at home for five months to come.

The present situation of the Turkish empire exhibits an awful lesson of instruction to the rest of the world. Here we behold a vast empire sinking into ruin under the weight of its own enormous vices and profligacy. The history of nations is full of instances to prove, that in process of time a degeneracy of manners among the great, spreads its baneful influence amongst all the inferior ranks of society; and when a people labour under the infection of this epidemic evil, the renown of their former glory may indeed procrastinate that ruin, which, however, is only to be averted by reviving those political and civil virtues, which composed the foundation on which the superstructure of the state was originally raised.