

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1783.

HERMANSTADT, June 22.

THE military operations of the Russians which were on the point of breaking out, have been suspended by the eruption of another scourge, the plague, occasioned not only by the great heats and excessive drought that prevail every where, but, moreover, by the great number of men crowded together, and confined in the small frontier towns, destitute of every convenience of life. The quarantine has been doubled every where, and prince Potomkin has returned back towards Cherfon with his troops, to prevent the contagion from making ravages among them.

PARIS, June 30. Our treaty of commerce with America is not yet concluded. The Americans have proposed to the cabinet of Versailles eight articles, of which three are rejected, in particular the demanding the importation of flour into our islands, live cattle and lumber of all kinds are permitted. Nothing is stipulated with regard to salt-fish. It is thought they will not be allowed to take sugars in exchange, only molasses, as heretofore. It is true that our dear allies are not pleased with these arrangements, but we cannot think of ruining our trade, and with it our marine, to serve their particular interests.

July 18. It is reported here, within these few days, that M. de Suffren has gained some new advantages over the English fleet in the East-Indies, but as no official accounts are yet published, we can only give conditional credit to this news.

FRONTIERS OF POLAND, July 3. We learn from all sides, that the Russian troops are actually in full march; having passed through Kiow, they entered near Talow the territories of the republic. The corps under prince Repnin arrived at Human the 21st ult. whilst general Soltikow marched to Nimerow; it is said these corps will unite at Zwanice, and there pass the Niefter, in order to encamp before Choczim.

WARSAW, July 5. Two Russian corps, making about 40,000 men, have entered the Polish Ukraine; and the one, under the command of general Soltikow, had stopped at Huam, in the palatinate of Braclaw; the other at Nimerow, in the same palatinate, but nearer to the Bog, under the command of prince Repnin, who was since to have marched, in order to draw nearer to the Niefter. The commandant of Kamienieck has sent notice to the war department, that the prince having wrote to him, that he intended to draw nearer to that place, where, he hoped, it would not be found inconvenient to receive his officers or his sick, if they should have occasion for quarters there, he had answered him, that he could not do any thing in that respect without the consent of the permanent council. That council immediately dispatched orders to him to do nothing that might endanger the safety of the fortress entrusted to his care.

FRANKFORT ON THE MAIN, July 6. The letters from Turkey and Poland mention only the various motions of the Russians and Turks; the former march in force along the Nieper, and insensibly approach the Okfakow, situated at the disembogement of this river into the Euxine. It may be remembered that compe Munich made similar movements when he took this fortress by assault in 1737. The Turks, on the other hand, are, with all expedition, repairing Choczim and Belgrade; they have formed a triple range of palisades round the latter, as well as a fosse, and 12,000 sphais are employed in the work; but they have not yet marched any troops towards Moldavia.

July 15. According to many letters from different parts, all is in readiness for opening the campaign, and its epoch is not very distant, if it is true that Russia has fixed the middle of this month as an absolute term for a final answer from the Porte. Mean time the Russian vanguard is already posted on the banks of the Nieper; marshal compe Romanzow's head-quarters are at Kiow. A division, consisting of ten regiments of infantry and eight of cavalry, is preparing to march into Bessarabia, under prince Potemkin. Prince Repnin will remain encamped near Human with 18 regiments, and general Soltikow at Nimerow, with a corps de reserve of 40,000 men.

RATISBOW, July 8. A manifesto has appeared at Vienna, addressed by Russia to the inhabitants of the Archipelago islands. Her imperial majesty therein exhorts the Greeks to take up arms to recover their former liberty, promising them her assistance to deliver them from the tyranny of the Turks.

PETERSBURGH, July 11. Since the beginning of this month, the Russian troops have filed off along the Nieper, and formed, at a certain distance from Crimea, a camp of 30,000 men, under prince Potemkin; they have assembled another near Archangels Koygorod, of 40,000, commanded by prince Repnin; these two generals are subordinate to field marshal compe Laszy.

AMSTERDAM, July 19. The Dutch have met with great success in the northern whale fishery; ships have caught 20, some 13, others 14 and 15, even 16 and 17 fish.

L O N D O N, July 10.

The case which Sir Adam Ferguson mentioned in the conversation which took place on the American sufferers bill last Tuesday was shortly this:—Mr. Macknight of Carolina, whilst he was hazarding his life in support of the British government, in America, had two vessels taken in the beginning of the year 1776, and condemned under the prohibitory act of parliament, which was

passed in 1774, and confiscated all vessels belonging to inhabitants of colonies in rebellion, without making any exception for saving those belonging to loyal subjects, so that Mr. Macknight's property in America was seized and confiscated by Congress, on account of his attachment to this country, at the same time that the laws of this country strip him of that part of his property which had escaped from the hands of the Congress.

July 16. Yesterday lord Abingdon rose in the house of peers and said, my lords, a noble lord not now upon the woolsack, but who, I trust, will very soon take his seat there again, having pointed out to your lordships a day or two ago, the absurdity of his majesty's ministers in bringing forward a bill for the purpose of regulating the officers and opening the ports of the islands of Dominica, an island not now in our possession, but in the hands of the French, and where it is likely to continue, for some time at least, from the incapacity of those ministers to conclude what their predecessors had so ably begun; I mean the definitive treaty of peace;—I rise to state to your lordships another absurdity; which, notwithstanding the authority I have for it, is of such a magnitude, that it is impossible for me to give any belief to it, unless I hear it from the mouths of ministers themselves, and find it avowed by them. The absurdity, my lords, I allude to is this: I see the public prints, and under the authority of the gazette, that an order of council has issued for the purpose of confining the trade and commerce between the American states, and his majesty's West-India islands, to the British built ships owned by British subjects, and navigated according to law. The order is conceived in these words. (His lordship then read the order from the gazette of July 5.) Now, my lords, if this be not a fatuity, or some forgery, to make ministers appear worse than they really are, it is that which must make every thinking man shudder within himself, because he cannot help perceiving into what hands the government of this country has unfortunately fallen; for, my lords, not to mention the want of policy, which is so self evident upon the face of such a monopolizing measure as this is, in the moment of the negotiation of a commercial treaty between America and this country, when we see the precarious state in which the commerce of America is as to us; when every individual feels the necessity of attaching that commerce as much as may be to ourselves, and when we know of a certainty that this order (the conduct of America depending entirely upon the steps that we shall pursue towards her) will be answered instantly by a similar declaration on her part; I say, my lords, even to pass and overlook these considerations, great and important as they are, in point of policy, the act itself is, in point of commercial regulation, the effect of the most contumacious ignorance that ever before blasted the councils of his majesty. An act which at once betrays the want of even one single idea, not only of the nature of the commerce subsisting in that part of the world, but of the mode and manner in which that commerce is carried on and conducted. Good God, my lords, what an idea! that his majesty's West-India islands, and America, should be supplied with the produce of each other, by British built ships, owned by British subjects, and navigated according to law! Why, my lords, it is absurdity itself; so absurd, that there is not a cabin boy in that trade that would not laugh in your face at the mention of such a proposition; nor could your grace a proposition ever have been made but by some ass of a city merchant, who, being a dealer in ships himself, would hope to convert those ships to this use, for his own private purpose, and not for the public service; nor was it possible for any ministry to have adopted such a proposition, but the present. Why, my lords, to mention one effect only of this curious system of navigation, the freight of the goods so exported and imported as this order directs, would be infinitely more than the value of the goods themselves. The prime cost of the goods in carriage there is trifling, and it is the readiness and cheapness of the navigation that supports the intercourse. From the vicinity of the American continent and the West-India islands to each other, the commerce is, as is well known, carried on by little sloops and schooners, nay, even by half decked boats, with two or three men, and perhaps a boy on board of each, the value of one cargo of which, inconsiderable as it is, being more than sufficient to pay the prime cost of the whole vessel, whereas a ship, as described by this order of council, must, from its superfluous charges and expence, either raise its freight beyond what the articles of its loading will bear, or make 50, nay probably 300 voyages, according to its size, before it can repay even the cost of its outfit. But, my lords, was this new mode of trafficking, for new it is, either political or advantageous, it is not practicable; for it would be impossible to furnish British ships sufficient in number to carry on the trade, and to supply the calls of the several markets there for one single month; and thus it is, that the intercourse between these countries is now by these means ignorantly, and with one coupe de plume, not only hung up and suspended, but for the present at least, totally prohibited, and put a stop to, under every circumstance of injury on all sides, and without the smallest prospect of good on any. My lords, I have mentioned this fact, out of a thousand others, in objection to this ridiculous order, and have said thus much just to point out to your lordships the danger that there is in appoint-

ing men to public trusts, because supported by an unnatural and a wicked faction, and who are incapable of doing the duty of their offices, and to hope and trust that the spirit of this nation is not so totally sunk, as to suffer such a coalition of counsellors any longer to persuade the councils of his majesty, and to direct the measures of this government.—His lordship was answered by lord Stormont.

July 17. It is reported, that the last dispatches from Mr. David Hartley at Paris, state the commercial treaty with America to be for the present suspended. Mr. Hartley, agreeable to his instructions, had insisted on the exclusive right of Great-Britain to transport the produce of the West-India islands to America in English bottoms. This was proposed as an article of the treaty, but the commissioners of Congress peremptorily refused the admission of any such claim, contending for the equal right of America to convey the West-India produce in the vessels belonging to the United States. In consequence of so very material a disagreement, a packet was dispatched to Philadelphia, requesting the final instructions of Congress on the subject, and an answer has been returned containing the ultimatum, which is, not to recede from her claim.

A vessel is just arrived in the Thames, after a short voyage, from Baltimore, in Maryland, with tobacco, flaxseed, staves, &c.

Extract of a letter from Brest, June 17.

At four o'clock this afternoon, the squadron of Mons. de Vaudreuil, consisting of eight ships of the line, entered this port; among several passengers of rank are the prince of Broglio and Marquis de Viomenil.

July 18. A letter from Leghorn brings advice, that an American ship was taken off there, under Spanish colours, by the Moors, and carried into Algiers; but the dey being informed by the English consul, that the ship and cargo were not the property of the Spaniards, but belonged to a people who were once subjects of his Britannic majesty, the ship and crew were liberated, and are arrived at Leghorn with part of their cargo, being plundered of the other part while the vessel lay at Algiers.

A letter from Lisbon has the following article: The Americans having been treated by all ranks of people with every mark of respect, are now become our constant visitors and opening a trade with them has already been of great benefit to us, and particularly in supplying us with wheat, flour, &c. but it has made our people more indolent, for while they can draw corn from other countries, they will give themselves little trouble in cultivating their own lands. Our people love the American trade, and seem to enjoy it, as they find it of such service, that they are fitting out more ships for those parts, and also for the West-Indies. Several American gentlemen are lately arrived here to settle some particular affairs between this court and the United States.

An evening paper says, On Friday an express was sent off to Portsmouth, to re commission a large fleet of the line, and to have them fitted out with the greatest expedition. Various are the conjectures for the cause of this resolution of the cabinet. Some say the French absolutely refuse to restore our West-India islands; others say, that we must have a formidable fleet to be on a footing with France, who means to take a part in the war between the Turks and Russians.

The Gloucester packet, Stockbridge, from Virginia, but late from Corke, is arrived at Dover.

Extract of a letter from Brest, July 8.

Some very particular regulations are now taking place in laying by the men of war, so that on any emergency, a respectable fleet might be fitted in a short time; this however shews, that doubts are entertained of the permanency of tranquillity.

July 21. The king of Prussia has ordered 50,000 men to be encamped in Silesia, and to hold themselves in perfect readiness for other service; and it appears from various accounts from Germany and Russia, that a war between the latter and the Poite is inevitable.

Two ships from Philadelphia, with thirteen stripes flying, are late arrived at Belfast.

July 24. A letter from Augustine, dated June 1st, says, that the southern Indians, on hearing that peace was made with America, and Florida given up to the Spaniards, had sent deputies to governor Tunyn, who had held several meetings with them. They heard the account confirmed with noble indignation; they repeated the talks they had received from their late father and protector colonel Stuart, he told them, they said that he spoke the word of the great king, and they considered that word as sacred as the word of God; but they found it came not from the heart; that their father and themselves were deceived; and that the faith of the great nation was but an empty sound. We knew not, said they, the cause of your quarrel; but we left our women and children, and lifted up the hatchet in your support, because we believed you told us truth; you engaged us with fair promises to take part in your dispute, and you now desert us in our misfortunes; you turn your backs like sheep upon the enemy, and advise us to see peace from the men you have taught us to despise. This, they said, they would not stoop to, nor would they hold out their hand to Spaniards, who had been the murderers of their forefathers; but that if the great king could send ships for them also, they would go away in search of new habitations; or if he would supply them with ammunition, they would go back and protect their old ones.