

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1783.

MADRID, July 21.

NOTWITHSTANDING the distance of Spain from the theatre of war, in case one should break out between Russia and the Porte, it is apparent that she would not remain entirely inactive in such circumstances. Some ships of the line are arming at Cadiz, where several others will join them from Toulon; and it is supposed, that the whole will form together a combined squadron, with a design to prevent the junction of the Russian Squadron at Leghorn with that expected from Constantinople; or at least to watch over the designs which those foreign forces may form in the Mediterranean against the commercial interests of the European powers with the Ottoman states; interests in which Spain has lately taken a part, by the treaty of family and commerce, which the hath concluded with the Porte.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 8. The unseasonable weather still continues here with little variation, but the mortality occasioned by the contagion seems to increase, more people having been carried off, during the last three days, than in so short an interval at the time of the memorable plague in 1778.

OSTEND, August 13. The basin which his imperial majesty ordered to be constructed at this port being completed, this day was appointed for its being opened for the reception of ships. The ceremony was performed in presence of their royal highnesses the governors general, accompanied by count Belgioio, and several other persons of distinction.

VIENNA, August 17. The military manœuvres at the camp of Minckendorff took place the 13d instant, in presence of the emperor, who returned to this capital the same day about noon; and on Monday morning left his imperial majesty set out for the camp near Brunn in Moravia.

LONDON, July 10.

The latest improvement in the female head-dress, is a long curl of a ram's-horn shape, continued from the ear almost to the top of the head. This gives the gentle wearer a most ravishing and satyr-like resemblance.

July 21. Thirty thousand pounds annual is funded for the half pay of officers in the loyal provincial regiments! Surely an army of Americans only, whose officers could be entitled to such a sum upon half pay, was sufficient, if in earnest and under a right direction, to have quelled the rebellion, without an officer or a man from Great-Britain or Germany. What a libel this is upon the conduct of all who had a hand in the American war, ministers, commanders, and officers. As to the men, they could only do as they were commanded; but surely some enormous defects there were some where, which ought to be brought to light, let who will be the sufferer or the victim of national justice!

August 7. Authentic letters from Paris concur in giving great credit to Mons. de Grasse, whose naval character, from the investigation it underwent, (during the examination of several officers, upon the court-martial of two captains, who did not support him in the battle with lord Rodney) it appears in the most brilliant point of view. It was deposed that he fought five men of war for several hours; that he kept the quarter-deck the whole time, in his shirt; that when his ports were beat in, and many of the guns deserted by their gangs, he repeatedly assisted in bringing the men to their duty; that when the Ville de Paris struck, he stood almost alone amidst a scene of horror not to be described. In short, the public wait with the most anxious expectation for the honourable acquittal of this gallant sailor.

Aug. 19. The information so industriously circulated in the public prints, relative to the sentence of the comte de Grasse, is totally void of truth. The comte underwent a trial in conformity to the custom of the navy; but so far was his conduct from appearing in a reprehensible light, that after the fullest investigation of the circumstances attending the loss of the Ville de Paris, the admiral, comte de Grasse, was most honourably acquitted.

Aug. 18. The address of the States of America to the people, is a master-piece of eloquent language; but it contains some matters that are not very agreeable to the aggregate body at large.

The epithets of folly and duplicity are now liberally bestowed upon the American congress. The late earl of Chatham, speaking of this body of men, says, "I have read that great and profound historian, Thucydides; I have also studied politics of most famous states in the world; and I can say with truth, that for vigour of counsel, and wisdom of conclusion, I never read any compositions equal to those of the American congress."

A footman of the highest ton wears two watches, like his master; and this strange folly no longer offends any but a misanthrope.

Aug. 29. The seizure of the Crimea by the empress, is perhaps one of the greatest political strokes the world ever saw. All nations ought to look upon it with an eye of jealousy. England, if wise, will never be angry with France for endeavouring to preserve the balance of power by assisting the Porte. The advantageous situation of the peninsula (Crimea) will enable her imperial majesty to increase her maritime strength so rapidly, that, if not timely checked, our posterity may see Russia mistress of the seas. "Faux quam faciunt ulna pernicia caelum."

Sept. 1. A letter from Berlin says, that his Prussian majesty has been greatly indisposed, but he is so far recovered, that he has been able to take the air, and had his troops drawn up, and saw them go through part of their exercises. The same letters add, that some American gentlemen are arrived in that city, but on what business is at present unknown.

Sept. 5. By the mails which arrived yesterday from France, we have received the following dispatches sent from Don Antonio Barcelo to the court of Madrid, in which he informs that cabinet, that he had, since he left Carthage, met constantly with contrary winds. The 26th of July he was 15 leagues west of Oran, where he took advantage of a calm to repair some slight damages; the 27th he continued his rout, and on the 29th he arrived before the bay of Algiers. The 28th and the winds did not permit him to begin the attack before the first of this month, and during that interval, he was joined by some of the ships of his squadron which had parted on the passage. That day the weather becoming calm, though the sea continued very rough, he formed his line of battle; the 18 bomb-ketches formed the front; the 13 gun-boats were placed in the wings to support them, and the boarding-boats, zebecs, bilanders, and other vessels of war, ready to act against the enemy's ships, if any attempted to come out. At half past two in the afternoon the firing began, and did not end until sun-set, when the bomb-vessels had expended all their ammunition; 380 bombs were thrown that day; and the brisk fire from the Algerine batteries, which threw 30 bombs, and 1075 bullets which passed over the Spanish line, killed only two men, and wounded two others. The next day, at half past two o'clock, a fresh attack was made, which lasted two hours, during which 22 embarkations with oars came out of Algiers, where the gun-boats soon obliged them to take the sea again. The bomb-ketches threw 375 bombs, which set fire in two places in the east, towards the moles, where it lasted an hour, and in the centre of the town, where it continued all the evening. Although the enemy fired that day 1436 bullets and 80 bombs, we had only two men slightly wounded. The general makes an encomium on his officers and sailors; and if the wind continues for a few days to the S. W. or W. he flatters himself he shall completely fulfil his mission.

The Georgium Sidus, discovered by Mr. Herschel, is found to be four times and a half the diameter of the earth, and its real distance near one thousand eight hundred millions of miles. He first perceived it on the 13th of March 1781, between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock at night, as he was examining the small stars near the feet of Gemini. The magnifying power he was then using was 227, which he increased to 2010, and with which he ascertained it, agreeably to the account given in the philosophical transactions for 1781.

Some of this gentleman's reflecting telescopes are made to bear magnifying powers of an almost incredible size, not less than between 6 and 7000 times! The effect which these very large magnifying powers had on the fixed stars, in showing many to be double, treble, and even quadruple, which were before thought single stars, suggested to him the idea of attempting to discover the parallax of the fixed stars by their means; and it was in pursuit of this object that the discovery was made of the planet above mentioned.

Sept. 9. Mr. Baron Maffers, who is one of the greatest algebraists in the kingdom, has calculated a means of the people taking the national debt on themselves and abolishing all the taxes that pay the interest.

Mr. secretary Fox has gained undoubted intelligence that a private treaty, for the preservation of the Turks in the full present state of their rights and possessions, is entered into by France, Spain, Naples, the pope, Venice, Sardinia, Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden. If the imperial party attacks Turkey, therefore, it will cause an almost universal war, and they will fail in the attempt.

The storm on Sunday night the 31st ult. was felt tremendously heavy on the Dutch coast; some vessels were set on fire off Katwyck by the lightning.

By sending clothes of a bad quality to Russia, we lost the clothing of the empress's army, which should afford a lesson to our merchants how they justify complaints in the new states, which have already begun to be made.

Sept. 10. Yesterday at half past one o'clock, the parliament, which stood prorogued to the 9th instant, was further adjourned to the 16th of October next.

On Saturday last the Irish parliament met, agreeably to his majesty's writs for that purpose; when it was prorogued to Tuesday the 14th day of October next, then to sit for the dispatch of business.

It is said, that Mr. Fox is clear for an offensive and defensive treaty with Russia; and that he has formed a plan for humbling the Ottoman pride, and restoring the Jews to their own country. Great resources are expected in this arduous attempt, from the contributions of that wealthy people.

Sept. 11. The definitive treaties and the East-India affairs will be the first objects of parliamentary altercation. The strength or weakness of opposition will be evinced on the discussion of those subjects; and the doubts respecting the permanency of the present singular junction will be resolved. The wishes of the people on the subject are well known; and as to the most exalted personage in the kingdom, his opinion may be collected from his absolute refusal to increase the peerage.

The last advices from Algiers say, that a powerful reinforcement from the grand seignor was daily expected, to act in conjunction with the Algerine forces in repelling the assaults of the Spaniards.

Letters from Madrid say, that, in consequence of some late resolutions of the council, orders are daily expected to be issued for equipping a powerful armament for quelling the alarming discontents which will still prevail in the South-American provinces.

A letter from Leghorn says, that the Danish squadron which sailed for Algiers, is returned to that port, but were ordered out again to perform quarantine; that the officers express great indignation at the treatment they met with from the Algerines, and wished that their commission would have allowed them to have laid the whole place in ashes.

Tuesday some dispatches were received from general Haidimand, governor of Quebec, brought by the ship Liberty, arrived at Dover, which mention that every thing remained quiet in the province, trade in a flourishing condition, and that several of the loyalists were arrived to settle there.

The island of Eustatius will perhaps never more recover its former consequence, as it used to be the great magazine and mart for smuggling while the Americans were confined by the navigation act; but now a the whole system of commerce is changed in the western seas, there is no need of a particular deposit in one island, when in fact all are in a great measure entirely open.

They write from Leghorn, that a fleet of Venetian ships, consisting of seven sail of the line, had lately sailed from the Adriatic for the Levant.

A letter from Paris, received on Monday, says, that a number of French officers are ready to set out for Constantinople to enter into the Turkish service as soon as intelligence is received that the plague is abated in that country; amongst those that are going are some more engineers and matrosses.

If the Spaniards are obliged to retreat a second time from Algiers, their misfortune will be attended with ill consequences to most of the European powers, as it will raise the spirit and insolence of those African pirates, and make the purchase of their friendship much dearer than it was before.

The first stroke between the Turks and Russians, of a war that is likely to be obstinate and bloody, is expected to be struck at or near Oczakow, to which place the two armies are drawing near on account of its vicinity to the Crimea Tartary, which is the present bone of contention between the two nations. The Russians have a formidable naval force at Azoph, which has a communication by a very narrow strait to the Black sea. The Turks have sent a very strong squadron to the Black sea, but they will not pass the strait to the sea of St. Azoph, so that there will be no naval contest on that side of Turkey, unless the Russians come into the Black sea, which is not however probable they will attempt at present, as their force is not equal to that of the Ottomans.

The cabinet of Petersburg consists of nine members, the empress herself presiding and attending all their debates: a very great question was agitated there on receiving the late answer from Versailles, which was, whether the war against the Turks should be undertaken if the house of Bourbon persisted in shutting up the Mediterranean? Four voices were for making it a land war, except in the Black sea, and total disengagement France, but the other five carried it for peace, under the assurance that the house of Bourbon would be as ready to assist the Turks powerfully by land as by sea. Thus the negotiation took place, but whether any treaty will be concluded is yet a question.

A late duel, it is hoped, will be the means of the legislature adopting some method to prevent the so frequent commission of murder in the code of honour. The French officers have as high a sense of reputation as any men on earth; yet duels are much less frequent in France than England.

Extract of a letter from the Hague Sept. 2.

"The States General continue sitting every day in deliberating on the terms of the peace with England. The deputies of Amsterdam, supported by the East India company, are very violent against giving up any of our Asiatic settlements.

"A duplicity has been discovered at a certain court, but too late for redress; it may be the means of teaching wisdom in future—an effect which it will certainly produce, as Holland will be obliged to let herself down at a loss of 16,000,000 pounds sterling.

"Some officers belonging to the department of North-Holland, having solicited leave to serve in the Russian navy, have been refused by the admiralty of that place. It is difficult to discover the true reason of this measure."

Sept. 15. The Porcupine frigate is arrived at Portsmouth from Gibraltar, and brings dispatches from general Elliot to government, with a number of letters from the officers of the garrison to their respective friends. By these advices is received of part of the Spanish fleet being returned to Cadiz from Algiers, after bombarding that city for several days, and laying a considerable part of it in ashes: the day, during the bombardment, obliged the Christian slaves to work on the breaches made by the artillery and bombs, amidst showers of shot, and in sight of the Spanish fleet, which nevertheless continued the attack without remission, frequently setting fire to the city in five or six places.