

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1784.

LONDON, October 11.

THE empress of Russia, during her last war with the Turks, was at great pains to establish her credit in Holland, on a permanent footing. At first the Dutch were very jealous, and would lend only on exorbitant terms; by degrees, they came down a little, and finding great punctuality in payment, she, towards the close of it, borrowed at five per cent. Most of those debts have since been discharged, and the interest on the rest paid to an hour; so that her ambassador found no difficulty in opening a negotiation for a million sterling, at four per cent, which is suspended at present, and will not take place unless the war goes on.

A short time will bring a great quantity of cash into circulation, very capital orders being now getting up for Spain, from whence remittances are chiefly made in ready money; and besides this, the Americans are opening a very extensive trade with the Spaniards: So that, in exchange for our manufactures, we shall receive the gold and silver of the latter in large sums, through the medium of the former.

Extract of a private letter from Paris.

This will certainly be the most enlightened and refined nation in the whole world, in a very short time! nothing but experiments in philosophy going forward! I was a few days since spectator of a glass jug, filled with dephlogisticated air! And into this jug was put a mouse! And the mouse was taken out in half an hour as if dead; but being put into a lady's glove before a fire, the little creature recovered, and running into a hole was seen no more.

The grand purpose of the above experiment, I found, was to shew, that if the mouse had been put into common air, it would not have lived fifteen minutes; but as the air, in which it was put, was dephlogisticated, it lived twice fifteen minutes!

The abate Fontana, the Priestly of Italy, has advised the king of Naples to dig a well a mile deep, and to choose the lowest spot of the kingdom for it, not liable to be overflowed. He conceives that the least vent to take off the gas that arises from fermentation in the bowels of the earth, would prevent a dreadful earthquake.

The 27th ult. an extraordinary circumstance happened at St. Austle, in Cornwall. A man had got a private place, near his house, to conceal smuggled goods, and going to open the place, to remove them, a man who accompanied him went in first, and was struck dead. The owner of the goods entered next, and he also died directly. A third person then going in, was apparently struck dead, but recovered in some measure afterwards. His life, however, is still despaired of. It is thought this unhappy accident was occasioned by the pernicious effects of air long stagnated and confined.

The animosity of the Hollanders against the English (particularly at Amsterdam) is so great, that it is dangerous for any person to walk the streets, in a British garb, early in the evening, or late at night. This antipathy, so strongly rivetted in the minds of every description of the inhabitants, was the sole cause of lord Shelburne not being introduced to the prince stadholders, a circumstance very erroneously set forth in the London newspapers.

According to letters from Marseilles, a capital house at that place, of more than fifty years establishment, has stopped payment, in consequence of the late failures at Paris.

Mr. Fanchaud, the well known banker at Paris, lost seventy thousand pounds by the late failure of the French bank.

Extract of a letter from Paris, October 10.

We have had occasion to observe, that storms have been mostly general on the 3d of August last; but no part of the kingdom seems to have suffered so much as the countries adjacent to Orleans. On the above day a storm arose, which taking its direction from S. W. to N. E. over-ran, in less than half an hour, a space of 20 leagues by one. By its dreadful and rapid effects, 20 parishes have lost every hope of a crop, which was the most promising ever known. The hamlet of Saint Mo-haire suffered most; all the trees were torn up by the roots, the chimnies beat down, and every house, mill, and barn, unroofed. The timber work of the church, 56 feet in length, 24 in breadth, and 19 in height, which, though built in the year

1555, was as good as new, gave way during the evening service. Luckily only one life was lost, and about 40 were wounded; the rest owed their lives to the strong ceiling that supported the timber frame.

Mr. Beckman, member of the royal society of Göttingen, has lately made a valuable discovery with respect to manufactures. He has found from repeated experiments, that the catharmus, or safflower, otherwise the bastard saffron plant, gives a most beautiful yellow dye to cotton, wool, and even linen yarn.

On 24. Captain Muir, of the Mary, arrived at Falmouth from Maryland, on the 12th ult. spoke the Princess Mary, from Maryland to Bourdeaux, which had sprung her rudder, and was putting back, being then 40 leagues from Baltimore; and on the 1st spoke the Two Friends, Fanning, from Dublin for Philadelphia, in lat. 44, long. 23, all well.

We are told, but with what exact truth we know not, that in all the armed associations in Ireland, there is scarcely a single individual with a musket in his hand, but who is a freeholder.

In this kind of military fame, Ireland, Heaven be praised, is quite out-done by America; in America it is not easy to find a single man, from 15 to 40, who has not stood a shot, and who has not been in real action!

On 25. A letter from Waterford says, that the vessel which they sent from thence with various sorts of goods for Boston, is returned; by which they have an account, that when they arrived there, they found such a confusion among the people, that the supercargo thought it not safe to land any goods there, but put to sea again, and bore away for Nova-Scotia, where they had a quick sale for their whole cargo, amongst the new settlers; and they say that that colony in so short a time seems to be in a flourishing state.

A letter from St. Jeau Pied de Port, in Navarre in France, says, that on the 2d ult. died there, Monf. James Le Messurier, aged 118 years; he was born in that town, and was never 20 miles from it in his life. His common food for some years was vegetables.

Fashion has long been looked upon as a harpy of the most delusive kind; a recent melancholy instance, we hope, will have a just weight with our fair readers not to follow it beyond the line of reason, as they may depend on it as a fact, that a most amiable young lady, whose name we conceal, out of respect to her family, and who was lately married, from the constant use of a preparation to change the colour of her hair, lost the use of her senses, and died raving mad, in the course of last week.

All heads now, which appear powdered, are supposed to be gray; and an immediate reduction in the price of starch is expected to take place, in consequence of the rejection of powder by the fair sex.

Nov. 13. The king's speech on Tuesday, was allowed by every member in both houses, one, excepted, to be the best that his majesty ever delivered in parliament. This certainly does the highest honour to the cabinet ministers. We saw, nothing of former peace speeches in it, although the distemper of the horned cattle at Derby offered an occasion of that kind.

A report prevailed on Monday, at the west end of the town, of a change in the ministry, the particulars of which we could not exactly learn, but it is said,

Lord North is to be created duke of Kent, and to retire;

Earl Temple to be first lord of the treasury; Mr. Pitt chancellor of the exchequer; and Lord Loughborough chancellor.

Those who take offence at six or six Irishmen having seats in the British senate, should recollect the number of Englishmen who have been dignified with Irish peerages.

Nov. 17. Lord North is certainly to be called up to the house of peers, by the title of duke of Kent, but not until after Christmas.

NORWICH, January 3.

The great rain which fell last Monday night, and Tuesday, together with the dissolving snow, produced the greatest flood in the Little River, which now runs by this town, that has been known this 64 years; and but few people now living ever saw a greater flood in the river Shetucket than now runs there. The vast quantities of lumber of all kinds which came floating down the streams, are full proofs of the damage that must be sustained by people owning property contiguous to the rivers above. We have already heard of

a number of bridges and mills being swept away by the irresistible torrent, and expect to hear of more; a slaughter-house, which stood adjoining the wharf bridge in Chelsea, in which was deposited a considerable quantity of hides, beef, tallow, &c. is entirely carried off, and not the least vestiges of it remains. Happy! happy! for the inhabitants of Chelsea, there was but little ice in the river to cause an obstruction of the water below; had it been otherwise, they doubtless would have experienced that, which would not have been forgotten for 60 years to come.

NEW-LONDON, January 9.

The sudden thaw we had the beginning of this week, raised the brooks and rivers to such a degree, that a considerable number of bridges are carried off.

Wednesday morning a large quantity of plank and timber which composed the bridges on Shetucket river, was seen floating down this harbour.

NEW-YORK, January 9.

Late European papers received by the Edward, captain Coupar, mention, that advices from the east bring the important intelligence, that a very unhappy disagreement had arisen between lord Macartney and Sir Edward Hughes, by which the operations have been greatly impeded by the want of that correspondence and good understanding between the marine and military force, which at all times is proper to give effect to their proceedings, but which in this particular service is essentially requisite. Sir Edward Hughes has written home, and has declared that something must be immediately done, that harmony may be restored among the servants of the crown and the company. I had letters received from Grenoble say, that the almost continual rains that have fell for two months past, have formed torrents which have done abundance of damage in the neighbouring parts, where they have stopped up some roads, destroying others, carried away houses, mills, and covered the fields with stones, among which there are some of an enormous size. The village of Vaulnavay, three leagues from that city, has particularly suffered; the wretched inhabitants having lost all their habitations, barns, furniture, cloaths, working tools, and implements of husbandry. Thirty heads of families stripped of every thing, burthened with children half naked, without food or shelter, and consumed with an epidemic fever, which had already made great havoc before the melancholy catastrophe, claim the commiseration of the philanthropist. I had the affairs of Ireland are very important, scarce a day passes without messengers passing to and from Dublin; the business of that nation is lively to occasion some warm contests this winter. And, that since the signing of the preliminaries, the Spaniards began building the following ships of force; two of 100 guns, two of 90 one of 70, four of 60, one of 50, and eight frigates from 24 to 40 guns, which is given out as a fact.

Jan. 10. An extraordinary instance of virtue in a female soldier, has occurred lately in the American army, in the Massachusetts line, viz. A lively, comely young nymph, 19 years of age, dressed in man's apparel, has been discovered; and what redounds to her honour, she has served in the character of a soldier for near three years undiscovered; during which time she displayed herself with activity, alertness, chastity, and valour; having been in several skirmishes with the enemy, and received two wounds, a small shot remaining in her to this day; she was a remarkable vigilant soldier on her post, and always gained the admiration and applause of her officers; was never found in liquor, and always kept company with the most upright and temperate soldiers. For several months this gallantress served with credit as a waiter in a general officer's family; a violent illness (when the troops were at Philadelphia) led to the discovery of her sex; she has since been honourably discharged from the army with a reward, and sent to her connexions, who, it appears, live to the eastward of Boston, at a place called Mudduncook. The cause of her personating a man, it is said, proceeded from the rigour of her parents, who exerted their prerogative to induce her marriage with a young man she had conceived a great antipathy for, together with her being a remarkable heroine; and warmly attached to the cause of her country, in the service of which, it must be acknowledged, she gained reputation; and no doubt will be noticed by the compilers of the history of our grand revolution. She passed by the name of Robert Shurtleiff, while in the army, and was borne on the rolls of the regiment as such. For particular reasons her real name is withheld, but the facts aforementioned are unquestionable and unembellished.

Last week a new born infant was found in a back yard, where it appeared to have been thrown from an upper window of an adjoining house, by the unnatural mother, daughter of a man known by the name of Portuguese John.

Extract of a letter dated on board the La Septie, English frigate, Sandy Hook, Sunday, January 4, 1784.

I never was present at so mournful an affair in my life as yesterday. On Tuesday the 30th of December, Sir Charles Douglas sent seven of his sailors, with a midshipman, in the long boat, to get some water from on board the Bridgewater transport, which lay a little astern of him; as soon as they had got that ship between the commodore's and the boat, they bound the midshipman, and pulled towards the shore; being per-