

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1784.

LONDON, September 2.

It is remarkable, that the acquisition of territory in the East-Indies, though eagerly longed for by every European power, since the time they were first discovered, has always been fatal, sooner or later, to its possessors.

As the question whether juries are judges of law as well as of fact is now revived, the following instance of the effects of limiting them entirely to the latter, may not be unacceptable to our readers: In the reign of James II. the earl of Argyll being obnoxious to the court, his house was searched, when among his papers was found one, containing a list of grievances under which the country laboured, with a plan for their redress.

The spirit of rodomontade seems to be coeval with the Spanish nation. Their late accounts of the attack on Algiers, and the wonderful relations they recently published with regard to the siege of Gibraltar, tho' sufficiently ridiculous, are yet inferior to the following related by a cotemporary historian:— "When the Spanish armada was in the Channel in the reign of queen Elizabeth, king Philip's ambassador at Paris, one day entered the church of Notre Dame, and flourishing his sword, cried out three times, 'Viloria!' after which he knelt down at the high altar, and with a loud voice returned God thanks for the conquest of England by the Spanish arms.

Sept. 22. Accounts from Leghorn, dated August 15, say, that a large Maltese galley had been taken, after a bloody engagement, a few days before, off Port Mahon, by three Algerine corsairs.

The above advices mention, that the Algerines had, since the late attack upon their capital, given no quarter to any Spaniards or Maltese who fell into their hands; even the women and children of Spain and Malta, were inhumanly destroyed by those barbarians.

The cessure passed upon the compte de Grasse, is received with universal dissatisfaction all over France,

(particularly by those concerned in the marine departments) who are unanimously of opinion, that the compte did every thing possible, within the scale of human prudence.

Sept. 24. No less than fifteen carriages of different kinds have been set down by the failures of the last month; to such a false and fatal pitch has the luxury of the times arrived.

The celebrated hymenial Dr. Graham has again experienced the fickleness of fortune. A few months back he was in a prison without a shilling, and now he is living in splendour, and rolling in his chariot at Manchester.

Holland is at present the grand focus of politics in Europe, towards which, all the eyes of surrounding nations are turned, and firmly fixed in steady observations of the upshot of the contest, subsisting between the emperor and that republic.

The garrison of Gibraltar is now completely exchanged; the transports lately arrived in the Downs, have brought home the two Hanoverian battalions, which are the last foreign troops to be discharged from the service of this country.

Sept. 25. The invention of navigation is variously attributed to various causes or accidents: the poets have given the honour to Janus, Jason, Hercules, Neptune, &c. whilst history ascribes it to the Phoenicians, Tyrians, and antient inhabitants of Britain; and sacred writ refers us to the ark of Noah!

According to letters received yesterday from Brussels, they were in hourly expectation of seeing matters between Austria and the States General of the United Provinces brought to a crisis. Two imperial ships from Ostend were daily expected to enter the Scheld on their way to Antwerp.

Extract of a letter from Constantinople, August 9. "Numerous troops of spahis, from the interior provinces of the Ottoman empire, are filing off towards Sofia, where, according to public rumour, an army of 100,000 men is to be assembled, destined to act against the revolted Albanians.

The Porte appearing to have forgotten the engagement lately entered into of regulating the boundaries, the internuncio of his imperial majesty has made heavy complaints of it in a memorial presented to the divan, and in which M. de Herbert prays that this affected delay is contrary to reciprocal good understanding, and may be attended with disagreeable consequences."

According to letters from Lisbon, Mons. Bordiere, the French consul, has represented that the Portuguese governor of Angola had seized two ships that were slaving on that coast, under pretence of their being concerned in illicit and contraband traffic, being contrary to the law of nations.

guese to make an immediate inquiry, that redress may take place as soon as possible.

They write from Genoa, that a decree has lately been issued there, in respect to criminals taking refuge in churches: this privilege is now limited to four churches, two in the city, and two in the suburbs.

A letter from Breff says, that orders are come there from Paris, not to admit any ships into that port from any of the ports of Spain, till they have performed quarantine for twenty days; the occasion of this order is, that a report prevails in France, that the plague is broke out among the crews of those ships that were at the bombarding of Algiers, by bringing home some Moors whom they took prisoners.

The same advices say, that an union will soon be formed among a number of the states and princes of Germany, similar to that adopted above a century ago, for the purpose of maintaining their privileges and independence; this confederacy probably arises from the very numerous armies kept on foot by Prussia and the emperor.

Mr. Crauford, in negotiating the commercial intercourse with France, will certainly procure us the comfortable and pleasant wines of France, in lieu of some of our manufactures. We have been sentenced, in favour of Portugal, to drink her coarse wines, instead of the pleasant and less hurtful light wines of France, and to pay between 2 and 300,000l. annually more than we should pay for the same quantity of wine from France.

It is recorded in an antient Greek author, that Ptolemy selected a number of the most respectable young men of Greece, Italy, Carthage, &c. for travel into foreign countries, and directed them to bring back three of the wholesomest laws out of each country which they visited. Being returned, they related, that in the Roman republic a most singular veneration was had for the temples, a punctual obedience to the governors, and an unavoidable punishment inflicted upon malefactors.

In Carthage the senate commanded, the nobles executed, and the people obeyed.

At Athens the rich were not suffered to be extortioners, the poor idle, nor the magistrates ignorant.

In Rhodes old men were venerable, young men modest, women solitary and silent.

In Thebes the nobles fought, the plebeians laboured, and the philosophers taught.

In Sicily justice was impartially administered, commerce honestly carried on, and all men enjoyed equal privileges and interest in the state. Among the Sicilians they admitted neither physicians to hinder the operations of nature, nor strangers to introduce innovations, nor lawyers to multiply contentions.

These men did not go out to see feathers fly in the air; they did not go to tip the tongue with a little language only; but they searched into the most solid and useful parts of human knowledge.

Sept. 26. Col. Turlton is talked of for one of the aerial voyagers; we give this gentleman credit for an hotspur spirit, and have no doubt but he would pluck honour from the moon, if he could reach it.

Before the first ascension was made in a balloon at Paris, many experiments were made with ropes which kept it confined; Lunardi, however, with a superior spirit, disdain'd all such trials, and soared for the first time with the courage of an Icarus to the sun.

Lunardi was so well received by the ladies at Ware, that he means, in compliment to them, to have the great bed fitted up on the principles of a balloon, and deliver a lecture in it on the nature of aerial suspension, to a select number for several evenings.

It is not at all a circumstance of surprisè, that the ladies of France should be found ready to go upon excursions in air balloons. The clouds have lent their aid to intrigues of old, Jupiter made them useful to his amours, and deities and nymphs, with whom he gamboled, found them serviceable in concealing their bluffs.

The friends of the coalition are ind-fatigable, says a correspondent, in paraphrasing Mr. Pitt; they pry into his very amusements, to find out something to torture into a crime; but what an exalted opinion must be entertained of a man, when his enemies are obliged, for want of other matter of abuse, to make his going to Brixthamstone, his walking in the

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ber 3, 1784.

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