

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1784.

H A G U E, October 10.

THE last dispatches from Vienna mentioned, that his Imperial majesty was unalterably determined upon opening the Scheld. Another courier arrived on Monday from Brussels, at the Imperial ambassador's, with dispatches upon the above important subject; immediately after the perusal of these dispatches, that minister gave notice to the president of the States-general, that about the 7th or 8th of this month, a vessel would sail from Antwerp, down the Scheld, into the sea; and that his Imperial majesty should look upon any obstacle to the free passage of the said vessel as a declaration of war. A courier also arrived from Paris with dispatches for the French ambassador, in which we hear the French court will recommend moderation to this republic, and advise them to give way to the circumstances of the times, to avoid a war, and wait for a favourable opportunity to invalidate their rights. Upon this their high mightiness dispatched a courier to Brussels, with their resolutions, taken in consequence of the above advice of the French court, and fresh instructions were also sent to vice-admiral Rynst, commander of the Dutch fleet at the mouth of the Scheld. It is reported that these orders were to let the vessel in question pass under a protest; but this is not credited here.

Couriers have been dispatched to Vienna, Brussels and Paris, and messengers to all the frontier towns.

Oct. 13. Our accounts from Brunswick, dated the 17th, mention, that 90 artillery men are let out from Antwerp, towards which place two battalions marched on the 9th; 60 pieces of cannon are expected to arrive in that city, and the troops of Bergen and other places have all received orders to be in readiness to march.

Government have issued orders for twelve armed brigs and galiots to repair to appointed stations, with all possible expedition, for the purpose of defending the ports of Flanders.

According to letters from Bergen op-Zoom, the Austrian troops are in motion in the neighbourhood of Zandvielt, and in the adjacent villages; quarters are ordered to be provided for two thousand men.

Antwerp, says a correspondent, about which the public curiosity is at present so powerfully excited, was once the emporium of the European continent, though now reduced to a mere tapestry, or thread lace shop, with the houses of a few Jews, bankers and jewellers adjoining. This ancient store house, or granary of the north, has no longer either ships in its harbour, or commodities in its market. Before the civil wars, under the infatuation of Philip the second, defalcated the country, it was said to do more business in one month, than even Venice in its most flourishing state in two years. Its form is orbicular, or rather a bow, of which the river is the string. Its quay is four hundred yards wide, and said to be not less than twenty-two feet deep. No town can be conceived more commodious for trade, as it is intersected by no less than eight canals, cut out of the Scheld, some of which, in its flourishing condition, are said to have contained a hundred loaded vessels at a time. It contains two hundred public buildings, peculiarly beautiful and magnificent. The streets are all large and regular, the cathedral is a structure of great elegance and liberality, the town house has not, perhaps for the most exquisite architecture, a superior in the world, and the citadel is esteemed one of the strongest fortresses in the Low Countries.

Nothing can be finer than the country adjacent, or contiguous to Antwerp. Every gentleman's seat in the neighbourhood, is a sort of castle or chateau. A circumstance, which powerfully reminds us of those hostile and sanguinary times, when no man was safe in his own house, but no proportions to its strength. The desolation, however, which takes place, in consequence of a total decay of trade, is strongly marked by the scarceness of money, which prevails among the inhabitants. All sorts of provisions are consequently so very cheap, that a stranger may dine in Brussels, on seven or eight dishes of meat, for less than an English shilling. Travelling is very safe, reasonable and charming, where the country, though solitary, continues so pleasing, where the means of luxury almost within every one's reach, and where the roads, which are generally a broad causeway, and much broader than ours, run for several miles in a straight line, and terminate with the view of some noble palace or building. So deeply impressed were the rest of Europe with the superior excellence of this country in the era of its prosperity, that it was vulgarly said of it, that its bread was better than bread, its fire hotter than fire, and its iron harder than iron.

L O N D O N, October 6.

Lord Chesterfield and his suite still remain at the Prince of Wales's hotel in Paris, waiting the arrival of an ambassador from Madrid. It is extraordinary that the nation should be burthened with the expence of this embassy so long before it can even in appearance be of any service. Would it not be time enough to send an ambassador when we learned that the Spanish minister had appointed a nobleman to our court; there would then be some pretence to send an ambassador to Paris; but as the case now stands, we are treated with a supercilious contempt.—Query, would the late lord Chatham submit to this indignity?

The trade to India says a commercial correspondent, considered in a national point of view, is less worthy the attention of Great-Britain than the fisheries upon her own coasts. Our trade to the Indies is carried on

merely by the means of the silver and gold we send thither; it is nature herself that produces this effect; our luxuries cannot be theirs, nor theirs our wants; their climate neither demands, nor indeed permits, hardly any thing that comes from ours. Such cloaths as they have the country furnishes; they want therefore nothing but our bullion to serve as a medium of value, and for this they give us merchandise in return, with which the frugality of the people, and the nature of the country furnish them in great abundance. This kind of traffic must always leave the balance against us, as we import a great deal, and export but very little; whereas, if we turn our attention to our fisheries we shall not only enrich our country at the expence of our neighbours, but always have at command a body of seamen ready to man our ships of war, to resist insults, and protect our commerce from any attempt to circumscribe its limits.

The unexampled cruelties which have been exercised in India by a certain nameless tyrant, were such, that a devotee had the courage to present a writing to him conceived in these terms: "If thou art a God, act as a God; if thou art a prophet, conduct us in the way of salvation; if thou art a king, render the people happy, and do not destroy them." To which the tyrant, with a great readiness and vivacity, replied, "I am no God, to act as a God; nor a prophet to shew the way of salvation; nor a king to render the people happy; but I am the scourge whom your prophet sends to the nations whom he has in his wrath devoted to ruin."

There is an excellent law in the city of Geneva, that marks their wild and if introduced into our code, might have a very good tendency. This law excludes from the magistracy, and even from the great council, or parliament, the children of those who died insolvent, except they have discharged their father's debts in a given proportion to their opulence. Few instances, it is said, have occurred, where the creditors of the deceased, have not received some compensation, which could not be recovered by any legal process.

Extract of a letter from Naples, September 9.

"As there has been much talk about the 1500 men sent to Malta, to quell the disturbances there, it may not be improper to explain the nature of the disturbances."

"Some time ago a priest assassinated his uncle and his nephew, and took refuge in the house of the bishop; the judge demanded the assassin to be given up, which the bishop refused; the authority of the then grand master, hurt by this refusal, ordered a detachment with all possible circumspection, to take the delinquent from his asylum; the clergy outrageous at this pretended infringement of their privileges, fought for nothing but to be revenged of the grand-master; and the demands of provisions soon furnished an opportunity. The priests raised the people, and a sedition was raised, and their plan was to assassinate the grand-master, and bring the island under clerical government; but the grand-master fought the rebels in person, imprisoned the ecclesiastics who fomented the discord, beheaded some, and exposed their heads on poles. This irritated the clergy the more, who complained to the pope; but all the representations of the Holy See, could not convince the grand-master that he was wrong, and it is generally believed his inflexibility cost him his life, as a violent dose of poison ended his days, since which, there has been no harmony between the order and the clergy; and the present grand-master, a Frenchman by nation, of the illustrious family of Rohan, is faithfully attached to the principles of his predecessors, and in the present disturbances, has punished several of the insurgents, and narrowly watches the clergy. This is the cause of his requesting our court to send him 1500 men, that he may put an effectual end to the sedition."

Oct. 16. The volunteers of Ireland are by no means universally disaffected; many of the more respectable characters among them for property and understanding, are sensible of the value of their present constitution, and of the views of those who wish to destroy it. There is a little appearance of discontent in some parts of Scotland; but as more than nineteen twentieths of the people are in opposition to this factious spirit, it will infensibly die away, and leave no traces behind it.

Oct. 19. A paper of the 9th inst, letters by the French and Dutch mails contain no positive information. In Paris there is a report that the Dutch will agree to the opening of the Scheld, and thus the contention will end between them and the emperor without bloodshed. On the other hand, there are letters from Flushing, which say they look upon war as certain, and accordingly are fitting out four large frigates, to protect the trade on their coast from imperial privateers, which are expected to be very numerous; and in the postscript of a letter from Ostend, they say that news has arrived there by express of an open rupture, the Dutch having actually taken possession of Sluys, and a small imperial fort in its neighbourhood. Though we can by no means suppose the latter to be true, a war is probably at no great distance, if we believe the emperor meant any thing in that part of his declaration, where he says, "that he should consider the obstructions of the imperial flag in the Scheld as a declaration of war." Undoubtedly that has taken place; but well informed politicians still think that France will interpose as a mediator, and matters will be accommodated. In either case a little time must determine.

Extract of a letter from Antwerp, October 8.

"I can only briefly inform you, that the Scheld will doubtless be opened very shortly. Count Proli,

whose renown as a merchant here you cannot be unacquainted with, had lately a small brig arrived at Ostend from Africa, which afterwards made a trip here round by the canals to Bruges, Brussels, &c. and has laid in the roads about 14 days. The Dutch have, in the interim, had ample information, that she is intended to be the first vessel that will sail through the Scheld by way of opening it, and she is to try "what they mean to do," after the memorial presented from the emperor, that "he shall consider any affront given to this vessel (even the firing of a single gun) as an immediate declaration of war, and shall proceed accordingly." Now this is perhaps, the most critical moment this city has experienced for upwards of a century! The brig failed yesterday down the Scheld, and every body here was impatient last night to know the event; some expecting her to be suffered to pass quietly, while others seemed certain that she would be stopped at Fort Lillo; or, if not, that she will certainly be captured by the admiral lying in Flushing roads, with an 80 and three 74 gun ships of the line. This morning, however, we find, that she is still lying off Fort St. Philip, about a league from this town, where she lays (by order of the court of Brussels) while it can be made known at the Hague that she is under way from these roads; in order that the business may be decisively settled one way or the other, and that the Dutch may not plead ignorance of her sailing, and the orders she has received from court. It is supposed she may lay off Fort St. Philip three or four days longer, but that period will certainly determine whether we are to have peace or war. If the post is uninterrupted, tout est fini; but if not, we go at it ding dong. Extra nous, eighty engineers are arrived here, whose orders are positive, that if this vessel meets with the smallest affront, they are to proceed immediately to Fort Lillo and blow it up. More on the subject the moment it occurs."

Extract of a letter from Utrecht, October 4.

"An immense war with the emperor seems inevitable: and indeed this issue might have been predicted in the earliest stage of our controversy with the republic, respecting the navigation of the Scheld, since the event that is now on the point of taking place was so plainly indicated by the inflexibility with which the king of the Romans persisted in his demands, and the firmness with which they were opposed by the Batavian senate."

Extract of a letter from Ostend, October 13.

"The Wasp cutter, of 24, and the Thunderer, of 22 guns, are also sold to the Dutch; but are detained here by our admiralty, alleging, as a reason, that they are as able to purchase and pay for them as the Dutch."

Extract of a letter from Flushing, October 5.

"We are fitting here four large frigates, one of 44, two of 36, and one of 30 guns, as guarda costas, to protect our trade, a war with the emperor being expected; and though that power has not much of a naval force, imperial privateers are expected to be very numerous: this prevention therefore, is taken for the purpose of securing our commerce before it is invaded."

Letters from Leghorn, dated September 17, mention, that the Algerine corsairs are exceeding very numerous in the Mediterranean, and have lately taken several Spanish vessels, the crews of which the Barbarians treat with great inhumanity. The Moqs had also seized some Dutch and Swedish ships, which they suffered to proceed on their voyage, after committing some petty acts of piracy.

The emperor seems to have taken up the king of Prussia's intention, and to be determined on putting that monarch's threat into execution, of making the Dutch an example of ingratitude to all the world.

Mr. Gomet has informed the societies and the public, that on the 18th ult. he saw at Turly, near Bourges, in Berri, a globe of fire, the most brilliant, and about half the size of the moon. It followed the sun and had a luminous tail of about 20 degrees. It constantly shot forth sparks of light as large and brilliant as the planets, and which instantly disappeared. The meteor continued between four and five seconds, and also disappeared. It was about 40 degrees above the horizon, and near the star Alciurus.

K I N G S T O N, (Jamaica) October 9.

As every particular relating to the life of a person rendered so conspicuous as that of the late Dr. Pugh, must be interesting, the following has been suggested to us by a correspondent. Every person who knew Pugh, must have remarked the diffidence and awkwardness, or rather a seeming bashfulness in his deportment; under that veil, it appears, there lay concealed every symptom of the horrid malady which has since broke forth with such fatal violence. Early in the commencement of our disputes with America, when our adventurers from this island went to New York with the view of sending American recruits hither, Pugh being of the medical tribe, was dispatched for this island with a few persons of that denomination. At a short distance from the land, the Yank es began to repent of their engagements, and when an American privateer, a day or two afterwards, hove in sight, they, to a man, refused to fight against their countrymen. In a man with a soul less congenial with the business in which it has lately been engaged, this instance might have called forth some sentiments of generosity and humanity; but Pugh's was of a different construction. "You won't fight," says he, "well, if we can't make you useful one way, we shall another?" instantly or-