

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1785.

NANTERS, November 2.

WO French missionaries have lately arrived at Rochelle from the river Gambia, in Africa, after having spent more than 16 years travelling through the interior parts of that immense region, and endeavouring, not without some success, to instruct the nation in religion, and teach them the arts of civilized life. They candidly acknowledge, however, that these people are much more tractable in receiving our arts, than swallowing down our creeds. In many parts, especially in the neighbourhood of navigable rivers, there are now many flourishing plantations of sugar canes, and sugar works like those in Hispaniola, some worked by the wind and others by cattle. These gentlemen seem to make no doubt, but that in the course of half a century, with proper encouragement from the Europeans, the African regions will supply the whole world with those articles, which can now be had in the West-Indies only, and at the expense of the lives and liberties of a miserable people, in a state of the most rigorous slavery, and hopeless exile from their native soil.

LONDON, November 1.

Extra of a letter from Vienna, October 2.

The magistrates have published the 13th ult. the following regulation concerning the future mode of burying, by order of the emperor.

Whereas the only object intended by interment, being to accelerate the total destruction of the dead body, and the usual methods of confining them in coffins, having a direct contrary tendency to this salutary end, it is therefore hereby required that every corpse, without distinction of rank or birth, shall for the future be carried to their respective parish church, and after the usual ceremonies, be taken out of the coffin, and stripped of all their cloaths, in order to be put into a linen bag, and thus without coffin, deposited in a grave six feet deep, under a covering of quick-lime.

Every parish is to furnish coffins at their own expense, necessary to carry the corpse to church, and thence to the grave.

Heirs and relations are at liberty to erect tombstones to the memory of their friends, though not as customary on the grave itself, but at proper distances round the burying ground.

This new regulation will be put in execution here, and in all the principal towns throughout the hereditary states of the empire.

They write from Stockholm, that the old treaties of peace and commerce between Turkey and Sweden have been renewed with several additional clauses, as well as those with Algiers, Tunis and Tripoly.

Letters from Petersburg by the last mail mention, that a great number of Scotch millers, bricklayers, and other handicraftsmen, who had been engaged by some agents at Edinburg to be employed in the public works in Muscovy, were preparing to set out on the undertaking of opening a communication between the Caspian and the Black-Sea, a work which has been long a favourite object with the empress, and from the accomplishment of which, infinite advantages are expected.

At Sheffield market, on Tuesday last, a farmer was defrauded out of twenty pounds by a swindler taking up a ring in the street, which he said was worth 200l. for half of which he paid the 20l. and the swindler immediately decamped, leaving the farmer the ring, which upon examination was found not to be worth a single shilling.

Letters were received on Saturday from the continent which mention, that the Dutch are fitting out a fleet at the Texel which consist of the Orange, of 50 guns, Zaal Bloom, 44, Jason, 36, Hoorne, 24, and Phoenix cutter. Commodore Jan Braicke, is to have the command, and he is ordered to proceed to sea as fast as possible, before the winter sets in, which might block up the port and prevent his getting out.

The whole population of Holland, included in all the seven united provinces, is about 2,500,000 persons; and the annual revenue of the state is about 5,650,000l. sterling, per annum. The population of the emperor's Austrian dominions is calculated at about 5,000,000 and a half of people; and the annual revenue is somewhat better than 3,000,000l. sterl. The emperor's German dominions are calculated, including the provinces, which he shared on the participation of Poland, to contain 8,000,000 and a half of people; the revenues are about 5,000,000l. sterl. per annum. In point of force the Dutch are very unequal; their whole land force, including their militia, are not above 58,000 men, while the emperor's forces in Austria only, amount to upwards of 200,000 men.

Nov. 3. We hear from St. Maloes, that his Most Christian Majesty's sloop of war the Leveret, is gone to Brest, where he is to join the Emerald frigate, and both are then to proceed to the coast of Africa, to maintain good order there and for the protection of trade. Letters from the same place mention the following melancholy accident: that a gentleman of rank there, carelessly leaning over the back of a chair, peeling an apple, the chair suddenly gave way, and he falling at the same time, the knife he had in his hand pierced his thigh, and notwithstanding the best medical assistance afforded him, he bled to death in four hours.

The character of the emperor for political sagacity is such, as leaves no doubt of his being aware of, and prepared for the maritime power of the Dutch, and their consequent ability to annoy his trade. The most obvious way of supposing this preparation to have been made, is, by recurring to an alliance with some state, the aid of whose marine may enable the house of Austria to cope with the shipping of its enemy. And thus circumstanced, what state is there but Russia to be thought of in this way?

Nov. 4. In all accounts received from Vienna, since the affair upon the Scheld, there is no more ascertaining of any future steps in that important business, than in the daily news from Brussels, so much to the credit of the Imperial councils, is secrecy a leading characteristic in them.

A gentleman lately returned from the continent, reports his having been at Bruges the 29th of last month, where the prince of Lign then was. He saw the Austrian troops drawn out and reviewed by that general. He describes them as the finest forces in Europe, whether considered for the expertness of their manœuvres, or in their personal appearance. There are 4000 troops at Bruges; 4000 at Ostend; and 2600 at Newport. The general establishment of troops at Brussels, is 3600; but it has in the course of the last two years, been gradually augmenting; and there are now supposed to be 6000 effective men in that capital and its environs. All which seem to declare the certainty of the emperor's intentions; and that he has not taken up the scheme of opening the Scheld on the random thought to abandon it on the first appearance of a serious opposition.

The 25th ult. the members of the Irish congress met at Dublin, without any ostentation, without military parade, or wanton procession, which might serve to strike awe into government, or inflame the minds of the populace, but assembled in a peaceable and regular manner, which became the members of a constitutional society, convened only for the welfare of the nation. Some fellows were hired to procure a mob and assemble in William-street, in order to commit outrages, which might excite the guards being brought down, and letting havoock loose; but by the timely assistance of the lord mayor and sheriffs, aided by the interference of Mr. Napper Tandy, they were all quietly dispersed without effecting their design.

If after all, war upon the continent should be the word, the moment in which it should be proclaimed, will be beneficial to the monied interest of England. The Dutch trade will be embarrassed, and of course, by many adventurers abandoned. Much of the money accustomed to be circulated in those channels, and most of the money kept loose by individuals, for the commerce of speculation and occasional loans, will be thought no longer safe in a country like the united provinces, for the most part open to every invader, and will be removed into more security, in the bank of England.

Nov. 5. A plan has been presented to the minister, and is now before the cabinet, for instituting a new colony in New-Holland. In this vast tract of land, which is so extensive as to participate of all the different temperaments or climates which affect the globe, every sort of produce and improvements, of which the various soils of the earth are capable, may be expected. It is therefore proposed to send out the convicts to this place under such regulations as may tend to the establishment of a new colony. The only inhabitants which are thought to possess New-Holland, are a few tribes of harmless uncultivated people, who loiter on the shore, and are only to be found in some creeks which seem convenient at once for shelter and provision: so that from these the Europeans can have but little to fear, especially as it may be supposed no settlement will be attempted without sufficient force, at least in the first instance, to protect it from every species of surprise or depredation.

The duke of Brunswick's resignation of his command with the Dutch, and engaging in the service

of the emperor, is to be regarded as the gain of two great points; much, in its addition to his own force, and yet more, as detaching from his enemy.

Last week a robbery of a singular nature was committed in Dublin, a baker's man passing by one of the dungeon windows of the gaol, carrying some bread, was called to by one of the prisoners, intreating for a loaf, at the same time offering the money. The baker complied, took the six-pence, and cut up the loaf in small pieces, which he was giving through the grating, according to request, when putting his hand pretty far in, it was secured by the noose of a rope and held fast, while with horrid imprecations, he was threatened to have it cut off, if he made the least noise, and demanded his money. The man terrified at the villainous and sudden stratagem, with the other hand readily gave the cash he had, and was liberated. On complaint to the gaoler, he brought the man in to point the villain out, but unfortunately he could not identify an individual.

Nov. 12. So far to the commendation of both sides, all is secrecy, with regard to the purposes and plans of action, of the Imperial forces and the Dutch.

Extra of a letter from the Hague, October 27.

Though every movement bespeaks a settled purpose of war, it is dubious whether the emperor intends them as preludes for an attack, or means at present only to stand on the defensive. The latter seems more probable, as the garrison of Slus, Sas de Grand, Hulst, Maeltricht, Bois le Duc, &c. are too strong for any attempt of a small army. The fort of Lillo alone by its situation and proximity, seems a proper object for attack; but the precautions taken by the state will in a short time put that important fortress in a condition to resist any sudden attack; and we are still in hopes that things will not be carried to extremities.

The celebrated Dr. Graham, who is figuring away at Manchester, has, till lately, buried himself every morning in the earth! He has stood, at least, up to his chin in it; then ran nimbly round a large field, attended by numerous spectators, to whom he advised the adoption of "this sure and happy means of preserving health, and of obtaining longevity!" He dresses in a light suit of cotton, in compliment to the manufactures of that place, and lives principally upon potatoes.

Nov. 13. The dispatches received lately from lord Torrington, his majesty's envoy at the court of Brussels, have occasioned two meetings of the ministry; not merely because a rupture between the emperor and the Dutch is now become certain, but that a demand has been made of an answer to a proposal made some time since on the part of his imperial majesty to the British court, by means of his ambassador in London. Two councils were at that time held upon the business, but the result was not known, and the affair was supposed to have blown over. The imperial court have, however, thought proper to revise it, and an answer is now become highly necessary; the exact tenor of the message is not known, but it doubtless has for its object the dispute between the Dutch and the emperor, relative to the navigation of the Scheld, and the treaty of Munster, at which the British court became one of the guarantees for the punctual performance of every article thereof. The treaty was signed in 1648, but there is a later one, the treaty of Westphalia, by which the court of London are bound to guarantee the full and sole navigation of the Scheld to the Dutch. How our ministers will find it necessary to manage in this affair, time only can determine.

The earth in Upper Calabria is not yet entirely settled since the last convulsions of nature happened in that district, the 12th of October they had another earthquake which did considerable damage, throwing down several houses that had been rebuilt, and burying the unfortunate inhabitants in the ruins.

A smart shock of an earthquake was felt at Grenoble, in France, on the 15th instant, which shook all the houses in the town, and was felt for four leagues above and below the town on the river Isara. At Port de Beauvoisin it was also felt the same day, but more violent, the windows and shutters of the houses were broke in pieces as with a clap of thunder; some peasants in the open fields at work far down out of fear, and by the convulsion of the earth were lifted up from the ground, and others who stood up motionless were thrown down, at the same time a subterraneous noise was heard like the rolling of a heavy carriage; these accounts add, that in the neighbouring mountains of Savoy, several stones of an enormous size having been loosed from the earth by its violent motion, came rolling into the valleys,