

notwithstanding all that Martin's friends can say, and as there has been a great deal of noise about it, our great men have agreed to let it alone for a little while, till they hear what the people in general say to it. I have heard a good deal on the subject, and believe I can relate to you the arguments on both sides. Those who are against it say, that though they allow the playing on the harp to be very proper and necessary, yet they cannot submit to be forced to hear it, or (which is the same thing) be obliged to pay for it whether they hear it or not. They think the players have better trust to the kindness of the people, who certainly will not let them wear for any thing as long as they find their music agreeable, and that they take pains to please those that go to hear them. They find this is the case with Peter's men and John's, who have always supported theirs without any noise or bustle about it, and are willing to do so still without being forced to it. And though Martin's players are so little regarded, that their people must be compelled to pay them, they cannot see why every body else should be dragged in to keep them in countenance. This is made a great handle of by the followers of Peter and John, who say it is no wonder the people should not like them, from the manner of their behaviour lately; for it seems that during the scuffle I told you of, a great many of them ran off to the other side, and some of that that it did more harm than good; whereas Peter's and John's players stood to it, and heartened the people on with their music as much as they could. They are likewise afraid, as I mentioned before, that this is a plan to introduce Martin's music again upon the old footing, though they pretend to allow to every one to choose for himself; and what makes them think so is, that some of Martin's head players have been some time ago tampering with our great men on the subject. As their business was always conducted very regularly, no one was allowed to play till he got permission from one of their head men among our old matters; and as that could not be conveniently done of late, the players have consequently grown rarer, while the others have gone on as usual; and as they are still obliged to go there, they thought it would be best to make a head man of their own, who could give them permission to play without any trouble. With this view they made out a lamentable story to our great men, as how their music was entirely falling off, and begged their assistance in the design they had formed. They went on for some time before the people got alarmed, but at last they raised such a dust about it, that we have heard very little of it since. There was no objection that I can learn against their having a head man to set them a playing, or a dozen of them if they thought proper, on the people thought they ought to do it among themselves, without troubling any body else about it. However, the present affair has brought this to their minds again; and they are fearful that, beside the usual players, they shall have their head men to support likewise, and as they would require a great deal, the matter would not go down very well. They likewise dwell very strongly on the promise that was made them to lately respecting the harp, and challenge the players on it to produce any thing in their books that obliges them to contribute to its support.

A great many even of Martin's friends seem to think it will fall rather too heavy upon them, for you must know that their players formerly, when every body was obliged to pay them, used to grumble, confoundedly, and were constantly calling out for more, so that now the whole burthen falling upon their own friends, they will find it no such easy matter to provide for them. There are, I believe, a few among us (but it is to be hoped a very few) who would rather never hear the harp in their lives than pay a single penny for it, and these you may suppose are violently against it. But there are a number of moderate people, who though they think very highly of the harp, and are very fond of hearing it, do not think it a matter of much consequence which party it is played by; and they object to the measure from seemingly very good principles. They say that they have already paid, and are still paying so much, that they can hardly support the burthen.

However they have paid it cheerfully, because they were told it was to go to those who had been fighting for them, and had been the means of freeing them from the state of slavery that threatened them; but they find very little of it has gone that way, but that the poor devils are wandering about with hunger and nakedness for their companions; their services forgotten; and without any prospect of relief. (This is too true, though our great men seem to have forgot that there were ever such persons in existence). They are willing to give still more, provided it is applied to those who have so well deserved it, and whose distress so loudly calls for assistance; but till that is accomplished, they cannot think it expedient to part with their property for other purposes, or to manifest their generosity before their just debts are paid. From these strong reasons against the measure, and the few that can be urged in support of it, we might conclude that it will hardly take place; but as I observed, some of our great men are very desirous of bringing it about, and as they can do almost any thing they please, I don't know what may be the consequence. To tell the truth, there are a few of them that have the same of seeing further and hearing better than any of the rest, so that they have nothing to do but to tell how things appear to them, and they'll find enough ready to join them, whatever they thought of them before. To be sure there are some who can see further into matters than others, but for my own part, if I had any thing to do in these affairs, I should like to judge by my own eyes and ears, if it was only for the pleasure of using them. But I suppose it is all for the best. These great men tell us, as I mentioned before, it is absolutely necessary that the harp should be supported, which is only to be done by supporting the players on it. They tell us that it will make us virtuous, honest, and in short every thing that is good, though by the bye some of them do not seem to have profited much by it; and as they see plainly that it is for our benefit, they are willing to make us partakers of it if they can. So the matter stands, till the opinion of the people can be known; whatever is the event I shall inform you as early as possible, as I presume you will be desirous of hearing it. Till then I remain, &c.

L O R I E N T, August 20.

PAUL JONES is arrived here from Paris, to fight out three ships, on his own account it is said, of which he will take the command, on an expedition to Kamtschka to purchase furs, and establish a factory. This he is enabled to do, by having lately received four hundred thousand livres for the prizes he took in the war.

L O N D O N, August 4.

The chevalier de Madron, hydrographer, is exhibiting at Berlin a most curious representation of the periodical motion of the sea. The king of Prussia having written on the motion of water from the equator towards the poles, was not a little happy to see the chevalier, and treats him with the highest respect.

Aug. 6. The expedition to the north west coast of America, which the French have engaged in, will take up several years, as they intend to establish a number of factories upon the coast, and to cruise in search of islands; the two ships are sent out at the charge of government, and are rather intended to make discoveries, than to trade in the first instance.

Extract of a letter from Barcelona, July 19.

"A few days ago, an Algerine corsair of 18 guns took a Genoese armed ship of this port, after a very hot and bloody contest of near two hours, in which the Algerines had upwards of 50 killed, besides a great many wounded. Among the former were several of the principal officers. The Genoese behaved with astonishing bravery during the whole engagement, and did not sink until they were left above board; and the corsair ship was in such a shattered condition, that the Barbarians, after throwing most of the guns overboard, were obliged to tow her into Algiers."

Aug. 11. The squadron of ships of war now fitting out at Portsmouth and Plymouth, for the manning of which two houses of gentlemen are open at Wapping, is intended for a cruise in the Bay of Biscay, the French being busy in equipping some ships, as is supposed, for the same purpose. Administration are determined not to let that nation, on any pretence, have a superior force at sea.

Orders are gone down to the admiralty for putting in commission six additional ships of the line, four at Portsmouth and two at Plymouth, to be fitted and manned with all expedition.

A Frenchman, of the name of Le Brun, has constructed a mill at Vienna to go by water, that spins daily 24 pounds of wool, without any other assistance, than a few hands to supply it.

Aug. 15. The late success of the Algerines in their treaty with the Spaniards has so roused the spirit of the Barbary states, that they make prize of every vessel they meet with, wherever navigation may be to. It is has furnished the court of Naples with they have given orders for dispatching the vessels and all the xebecs in that port, as an additional escort to the king and queen, who intend to return by sea. This squadron is commanded by M. Acton, and it is said that the young prince will go on board of it. The court of Portugal seems to be no less alarmed: Orders have been issued for fitting out immediately a ship of the line and a frigate to cruise at the mouth of the Tagus, they having received intelligence of the sailing of four Moorish vessels, which has fired them with speculations for the ships from Madeira and the West Indies. The late treaty between Algiers and Spain has struck the Portuguese merchants with the greatest dismay.

Aug. 19. Stocks fell yesterday a half per cent. owing to a report which prevailed, that the Irish propositions had been rejected by a majority of six; and that a scene of confusion and riot was expected to take place.

The packet which government received by the last New-York mail, was the occasion of the cabinet meeting held on Tuesday evening, at the secretary of state's office. We learn, that congress have submitted to the proposals relative to commerce, to which an immediate answer has been requested, as the majority of the American states were desirous of a commercial treaty being directly settled with Great-Britain.

It is a fact, that the great warlike preparations are making in the dock-yards of France, and the belief that a speedy rupture will take place with this country, is the subject of general conversation. This we have from the authority of a gentleman of veracity, just arrived from the continent.

Aug. 20. The French vessel which lately refused to pay the accustomed honour to one of his majesty's ships of war, though on our own coast, was, it is now perfectly known, taking soundings of the coasts of Hampshire; she had been seen in the Needles about the Isle of Wight, and if she had not been discovered, would probably have gone to St. Helen's or Spithead. This affair has been hushed up, but it has given some alarm. The French during the late war, had by some means got the soundings of Plymouth and Portsmouth harbours, and the principal ports in the Channel, the mouth of the Thames, &c. which they are now in possession of.

The fate of the Irish propositions in the house of commons of Ireland, gives no displeasure to the friends of the ministry here, who are of opinion, that an union may hereafter be formed of a permanent and satisfactory nature, by a delegation from the parliament of both kingdoms.

The temerity of Ireland is likely enough to incense the interior cabinet. This was the origin of last war. God forbid that ever such another conspiracy against the interests of the freedom should disgrace the British council.

A letter received yesterday from Lisbon, says, that news has been received, that the Algerines had taken several ships bound to Cadiz, and carried them to Algiers. A fleet of men of war was preparing to sail to Algiers to demand the ships to be released, and if refused, to make reprisals of all the Barbary vessels they meet with, and to bring them into some port belonging to the Portuguese, that the crews may be made slaves of.

Extract of a letter from Madrid, August 30.

"An affair very interesting to the monarchy, has, this day, fixed the attention of the Spaniards. At the moment we were flattering ourselves with the success of the negotiation with the regency of Algiers; we learn that all hopes of peace with the Algerine pirates is va-

nished. It is true, we never thought our monarch would subscribe to the humiliating conditions of peace, which most of the foreign gazettes mentioned, and which first arose from a simple letter written from Algiers, by some evil minded person; but we know that the king offered great sacrifices to induce the regency to an accommodation, all which have been without the desired effect; and it is well known, that that nation, which is a natural enemy to all her competitors for commerce, has worked to effectually underhand as to render the mediation of France of no effect. The dey has carried his presumption so far as to stipulate, "That the peace that shall be concluded on, shall be observed only in open sea; but that the hostilities shall continue on both sides on the coasts of the two empires." In consequence of a refusal to an accommodation extraordinary, and suggested with a design to render the negotiations abortive, the Algerine corsairs have already seized on one or two vessels. His majesty has caused to be inserted in the Court Gazette, the orders which he has thought proper to give, in consequence of breaking off the conferences, and of this free attack of the pirates."

It is no immoderate embarrassment which the ministry are thrown into, when the chancellor of the exchequer is obliged to leave his post.

Sept. 3. Lord Howe had yesterday an audience with his majesty, to assure him that the french fleet consists of nothing more than frigates or small force.

The admiralty order, to prevent improper persons from gaining admission into the king's yards, is so rigidly observed, that no persons whatever are admitted to walk about or observe the works going on, nor are strangers suffered to go to the houses of the officers without a person to attend them.

Extract of a letter from the Hague, August 24.

"It is in vain to attempt to conceal it, that notwithstanding the efforts of the friends of the house of Orange, the affairs of the stadtholder, instead of improving, grow every day worse and worse. His majesty's orders for the troops to march to Amersfort, at the sole request of four deputies at Utrecht, without the sanction of the majority of the states of that province, gives general offence; the letter written by his highness of that occasion has been criticised with great severity and bitterness. The burghers of Utrecht, on their part, profit in their resolution of defending themselves, and shutting their gates. This resolution is first taken by the conduct of several towns in the province of Holland, who have determined to lodge a complaint before the states against the stadtholder for issuing those orders, and at the same time to propose depriving his highness of the power of granting patents without the consent of the provinces. It is not easy to foresee how his highness will extricate himself from this dilemma if the other towns should adopt this plan, which, it is more than probable they will."

Sept. 6. We hear from good authority, that notwithstanding the triumph obtained by the people of Ireland over ministry in regard to the propositions, Mr. Flood still intends to bring forward his motion declaratory to the legislative independence and omnipotent authority of the Irish parliament.

Extract of a letter from Lisbon, August 18.

"The situation in which the Spaniards have left our court by the time they have patched up with the Algerines is far from being pleasing; and, considering the timely concessions that have lately taken place, rather unexpected. If most faithful majesty is resolved, however, to protect her trade. The Algiers of 30, and can possess of 24 guns, are for this purpose ordered to sail to-day, to convey and protect the home trade from the mouth of the straits. There are also in the Mediterranean a ship of 60 guns, and three others, cruising about the Barbary flags, with orders not to spare them wherever they meet them."

Extract of a letter from the Hague, August 30.

"The news of the day is, that M. Thugener, ambassador from his Prussian majesty to this republic, has had a private conference with the grand pensionary, and has officially signified to him the definitive settlement of the Germanic league of confederation. In this declaration his Prussian majesty represents the projects formed for the aggrandisement of the emperor, and also the necessity of concluding a treaty of confederacy, which shall confirm and establish the independence of the provinces of the German empire, and assures their high mightinesses that he will rigidly adhere to every article advanced in his memorial, and invites the several princes immediately to comply with the propositions therein contained."

S A L E M, October 4.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Cape Anne, dated last Thursday.

"Captain Cleves of the ship Rochampton, arrived here yesterday, in 68 days from St. Ubes. He confirms the intelligence respecting the Spaniards and Algerines; but heard that the truce was made but for ten years. The Portuguese were fitting out men of war to protect their trade. A Danish ship arrived at St. Ubes, the night before captain Cleves sailed, the captain of which advised, that he spoke with an Algerine cruiser off Cape St. Vincent, the commander of which informed that he was cruising for Portuguese and American vessels. Forty days ago, captain Cleves spoke with an English sloop bound to Newfoundland, which had been brought to by an Algerine, who said there were 17 sail of their cruisers without the straits of Gibraltar.

P R O V I D E N C E, October 8.

Captain Ward, in the sloop Polly, arrived here on Sunday last, in 20 weeks from Bayonne. On the 10th of August he spoke the ship Baltimore, Benjamin Dingley, master, from Baltimore, bound to Liverpool, 16 days from port; and on the 23d of August spoke the brig Rose, Samuel Caswell, master, from Philadelphia, bound to Corunna; all well on board each vessel. The drought in France had been to great, that it was judged at Bayonne the wines and brandy, at that market on 3d, would fall short of their usual quantity, 30,000 barrels.

A N N A P O L I S, November 3.

Monday next is the day appointed by the constitution and form of government for the meeting of the general assembly of this state.