

interests, and knavish views, and others blunt their intellectual faculties by ill habits, whilst some, through ignorance or inattention, are led into the shares of crafty men, and others through indolence or complaisance, swim contentedly with the stream, regardless whether it be clear or muddy. No absolute safety is to be found in a multitude of counsellors; but the sense of the proverb, that "in a multitude of counsellors, there is safety," only means, that it is safer to have many friends than few.

A singular circumstance that is said to have happened very lately, has been sent to us with assurances of authenticity: the housekeeper of a nobleman absent from town, received a letter brought to her by a common porter, professedly written by her master, in which she was desired to prepare for his reception on a certain day, and to procure all his plate from the banker's, where it had been deposited for security, while the family was from home. As the letter had no post mark to show that it came from the country, and as she entertained some suspicions of the hand writing, the woman very prudently went to consult her master's brother upon what conduct she should adopt. This gentleman, on inspecting the letter was firmly convinced it was his brother's writing, and advised her to make the necessary preparations against his arrival. Still, however, her doubts were not removed, and she went to the banker's rather to receive his opinion, than to order the delivery of the plate. But the banker was so fully persuaded that the letter came from her master that she desired the plate might be sent home, where she went with intention to get every thing ready to receive him. However, for a security against any possible danger, she requested the butcher to the family to suffer one of his men to sleep in the house till her master's return, which was expected the next day. The butcher was unable to spare any of his men, but offered his dog, an animal of peculiar ferocity, which he assured her would be a much better defence in case of danger. The woman readily accepted his offer, the dog was locked in the same room that contained the plate, with other valuable property, and the night passed over without any alarm. In the morning, however, when she came down stairs, she saw the door open, and the dead body of a man with his bowels torn out, and other marks of violence, whom, on examining, she found to be the brother of her master, whom she had consulted in the morning. The dog had received no injury, and offered none to the woman, whom he knew from her frequenting the house of its master. The family have in vain tried to conceal this lamentable disaster from the world; the wretched victim is represented by them to be now on his travels, and some inquietude is even said to be affected, on account of his not having lately written to his friends, that all suspicion of his melancholy occurrence may be wholly extinguished.

Feb 9 Amongst other sure symptoms of debility in the American constitution, is their utter impotence in external force; they have not yet been able to make a single effort towards repressing the injuries they are continually suffering from the Barbary corsairs.

The last letters from Madeira mention, that a large Algerine rover, of 38 guns, was blown off Fayal the beginning of January, and that the entire crew, consisting of about 128 men, perished.

The king of France has published an arret for the encouragement of foreign merchants and manufacturers to settle in his dominions, of which the following is the substance:

The king having been informed, that a number of foreign merchants and manufacturers, who formerly used to import and vend divers merchandises, the introduction of which his majesty, in order to favour the national commerce, has prohibited, were desirous of settling in France, in order to establish the same manufactures, if his majesty would be pleased to grant them the same privileges they enjoy in their native country, as well as the liberty of returning after a certain number of years; his majesty thinking those demands conformable to his views, grants them the following privileges:

I. He permits merchants and foreign manufacturers to establish manufactories of every kind in his dominions, particularly of muslins, white and printed linens, silk, stuff, and draperies of all sorts, on condition that they make his country their abode, and fix their personal residence in it at the distance of at least seven leagues from the frontiers, and that they engage before the intendant of the province to effectuate their settlement in the space of a year.

II. On these conditions, his majesty grants an exemption from all duties on the importation of raw materials, such as cotton, thread, ingredients for dying, copper, tin, machines and instruments necessary for their business, as well as their household furniture, within the aforesaid time.

III. His majesty farther grants them and their workmen an exemption from all personal duties for three years.

Feb. 16. This morning Mr. Price, who was committed on suspicion of forgery on the bank, and was to have been examined as this day at eleven, hanged himself in his room in the prison. From a variety of circumstances, there remains no doubt but that he is the person so frequently advertised for forgeries

on the bank for several years past, and who has had the address to elude the strictest search, though long known and suspected. It was his custom, at times, to give entertainments to a select party, and, to evade the plate tax, to borrow the splendid articles of the side-board at a pawn broker's, depositing bank notes as a security. The pawn broker happening to offer one at the bank, was stopped, and, on relating how he came by it, with all the circumstances, proper people were sent to the shop, who, when he came to return the plate, immediately took him into custody.

Economy do not take place in a nation, the people must be burthened to no purpose. The taxes laid upon the subjects of this country never bore heavier on them than they do at present; the folly of those who involved us in a war with America, and, of course, in debt, occasioned the necessity of imposing such oppressive loads on the people. But we are not without ground of comfort. While we contribute largely to the support of the state, we have the pleasure of remarking, that our contributions are well husbanded. We see, indeed, money expended on our fortifications and our navy, but the safety of our island demands that it be so expended: and not one six-pence of it ever issues from the treasury, for which the most urgent necessity does not call. But after these, and every other unavoidable drain, are taken into the account, still the nation prospers, and even flourishes. Our commerce receives improvement; as is shown from the increase of our exports. Our trade extends itself; as is apparent from the improvement of our imports. Navigation, by which our commerce and trade are maintained, and by which our fleets are rendered effective, is cherished and extended to an unprecedented degree; there being at this moment cleared out at our different custom-houses, a number of ships greater than that which supported and enriched Britain in the year 1774. Add to all this, public credit is respectable; and the wisdom of our rulers holds out the very pleasing prospect of our being soon in the possession of the means of liquidating part of the national debt.

Feb. 25. Letters from Geneva dated February 10, mention that the ingenious M. Bourrit, preceptor of the cathedral of that city, has completed his travels in the Alps and Ice Mountains of Savoy. In M. Bourrit's last fatiguing and dangerous excursion over the famous Mount Blanc, or White Mountains, two English gentlemen who accompanied him got up to one of its summits, whose height measured 2346 toises, (about 14076 English feet) and instead of meeting at this amazing height with intense cold, they found the air as warm as that in an oven, so that they were obliged frequently to stop in their progress for fear of suffocation. The travellers were men of undoubted veracity; and, strange as their relation may appear, it is not doubted by the philosophers in that part of Europe.

It has hitherto been deemed impossible to ascend to such an height as that mentioned in the above article, except in the torrid zone (which was achieved several years since, by the celebrated M. Condamine) where the constant term of perpetual snow lies much higher than in the Alpine regions.

KINGSTON, (Jamaica) March 11.

The public are cautioned against counterfeit doubloons, some of which are now in circulation about this town. They are made of copper slightly covered with gold leaf, the impression somewhat faint, date 1766, rather thicker, and much lighter than the original.—One of these was offered to a shop-keeper a few days ago, by a negro girl, whose anxiety to obtain her change created immediate suspicion; and he attempted to seize her across his counter, but she eluded his grasp, took to her heels and got clear off, though she left the base piece of money behind her.

March 15. Captain Charles, when on the coast of Africa, in October last, received information that a Dutch snow, then under sail, had been taken possession of by the slaves on board, who were going to carry her away, upon which he slipped his cable and soon came up with her, when a smart engagement ensued, during which the officers prevailed on him to let ten of the people take the boat and board the snow, under cover of the Africa's fire, which they effected; when the slaves finding themselves driven from the decks, set fire to the magazine, and blew up the vessel, by which every soul on board perished.

We are informed that eleven sail of American vessels have been condemned within these two last months, in the different ports of St. Domingo; and that the trade of the United States with the French West India islands is now entirely restricted to their carrying thither lumber and live stock, and from thence tafia and molasses.

The differences between the Spaniards and the Americans settled in the country adjoining Louisiana, have for the present subsided. The Spanish fort at the Natchez hath been considerably strengthened, is well supplied with military stores and provisions, and garrisoned by three hundred regulars, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Don Francisco Boulini.

March 18. A correspondent remarks, that if the importation of lumber for building, from the three southern states of America, was to be prohibited, the carpenters would be a most profitable business

at this place, as their work every three years would require to be done a new; for building timber from Canada and Nova-Scotia will not last longer than that time.

The Americans being nearly destitute of specie, the only chance (says a correspondent) of their English debts being paid, will be, by their lumber and other articles being conveyed to the West-Indies in British bottoms, and, through that channel, the English creditor will reap a double advantage, viz. getting his demand paid, a freight for his vessel, and a commission from the planter for the amount of lumber and other articles shipped.

Don Felipe Dessadecker is appointed commandant of the garrison at St. Augustine; he has four thousand men under his command, and will shortly be augmented with troops from the Havana. Both the Floridas are made deputy-governments under the governor of the Havana, who is the supreme in that quarter of the globe.

A correspondent congratulates his fellow citizens, and the public in general, on the combination of interested individuals to advance the price of flour and lumber, having failed of their wished for success; it appearing, on strict scrutiny, that the quantities of those articles on hand are fully adequate to the present demand, and further supplies are almost daily arriving from different parts, in British bottoms, so that the price of flour in particular may be reasonably expected to remain nearly at the present moderate rate for a length of time to come.

March 21. A gentleman from Spanish Town assures us, that last Monday morning an eminent barrister of that place, for a considerable wager, rode an old foundered horse, without shoes, five times round the race course (about ten miles). He was allowed an hour to do it in, but performed it with ease in 51 minutes.

March 25. A correspondent says, should a total prohibition of American produce take place, pitch pine, lumber and rice, are the only articles that Canada and Nova-Scotia could not furnish, and these adds he, there is a pleasing prospect of being supplied with from the Spaniards, several vessels having lately arrived from the Mississippi, with these articles, for the purchase of negroes and European goods.

It appears by the late Bahama papers, that some overtures have been made by the British inhabitants remaining in East-Florida, through the medium of an agent in London, to the chevalier del Campo, the Spanish ambassador, for permission to remain there with particular immunities, and exemptions from the inconveniences attending an arbitrary government, which it does not appear the treaty of peace gave them any right to expect. Their expectations, which it is to be hoped, were not very sanguine, have however been completely frustrated, as the following extract from the chevalier's answer to their agent will show:

"Seeing at large the whole plan, I could not help shewing my surprize and concern for the manner in which it was proposed, since some of their articles, in my opinion, are not only inadmissible, but in some respects offensive to the rights and dignity of a crown. They propose, for instance, to be left in the whole and absolute command of the civil and military over the territory, fixed themselves, so far as to stipulate, that the king of Spain should not be allowed to send his troops there; and likewise in the unhappy case of a rupture between Spain and England, they and that territory should be considered neutral, on account of their having been formerly English subjects; which circumstances altogether would signify as much as if that part of the province of East-Florida had been given up to a third independent sovereign—under the sole condition of paying some tribute in money.

"Though I wish to oblige you in every thing that could depend on me, having seen the nature of the proposals, I dare not take upon me to interfere in such a business."

NEW-YORK, April 26.

From the St. Christopher's Gazette, March 1.

On Monday the 14th ult. arrived here from Africa, capt. Duncanson, of the schooner Amity, loaded with slaves.

An account of the seizure of the above vessel by the piratical crew on the 15th of August last, off Virginia, and her being re-taken by Elias Hasket, Esq; and several other volunteer gentlemen of Salem, has been particularly mentioned in some of our former papers.

Captain Duncanson takes this public method of doing justice to the disinterested conduct of the above gentlemen and his brave associates, in delivering him his vessel and cargo entire, and refusing any compensation for the risk and trouble they were at, though they were entitled to a salvage, and fitted out Mr. Derby's brig on purpose to go in quest of the schooner Amity.—These gentlemen are requested to accept captain Duncanson's sincere thanks, and he assures them that he would have published his acknowledgment in the Salem paper, but for his sudden departure and hurry to proceed on his voyage.

The printers on the continent of America are requested to publish the above in their papers.

Extra of a Government of the American bond files, touching with passes, and English flag, in some of the blestome visits of however of their regulations, and p &c. at Gibraltar.

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