

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1786.

VIENNA, February 2.

OUR monarch has given orders to equip two cutters, of twenty guns each, to cruise in the Adriatic gulph, for the protection of the trade of Trieste: these are the same vessels which were destined to force the passage of the Scheld, and are the whole imperial marine at this time: but, it is said, our monarch means to increase the naval force of the empire, and is for that purpose going to import materials for ship building from Clerfon, whilst the Croats are to be drained for sailors. Charles VI. in 1728 built some ships of war, but other objects prevented him from finishing his plan. It is thought our present monarch will be able to establish a fleet at least sufficient to awe the Barbary corsairs.

We are assured that the emperor has ordered all his ministers at the different courts of the empire to require a categorical answer from the princes to the following question, viz. "Whether they have acceded to the German confederation, or whether they mean to accede to it?"

The emperor mentioned some little time since, at a public meeting, that he should undertake a journey in June, from which he should not return to Vienna till October.

March 22. The very gracious manner in which the emperor received the count de Powdewil has furnished such matter of conjecture for our politicians, and, if we may credit them, that ambassador has brought his imperial majesty the most positive assurances of the king his master to co-operate efficaciously in the election of a king of the Romans in favour of his royal highness the archduke François, grand duke of Tuscany. They add, that in return the king of Prussia requires the court to observe the most scrupulous neutrality, in case the Dutch, persisting in their refusal to come to an amicable arrangement in the affairs of the prince stadtholder, the king would think it necessary to oblige them to it. The above request is looked upon here as a master stroke of politics. Whatever may be the fact as to the above, it is certain that the tranquillity of Europe depends upon the good intelligence between the king of Prussia and our sovereign.

PARIS, February 20.

An unlucky instance of an error in judgment, a proper lesson to all magistrates in general, is the subject at present of every polite circle in France. The son of a rich Italian merchant had been travelling for a year in the south of this kingdom, and was to have embarked at Marseilles to visit Spain, and thence to pass into England. At Nismes he fell in love with a young lady, who promised to marry him at his return. The unhappy young man, on quitting his mistress, proposed to himself the pleasure of Vaucluse, where the immortal petrarck receives the passing tribute of a sigh from every traveller as he visits chaste Laura's tomb. As he was going through the Popish territory of Avignon, a murder was committed by a man dressed in a green frock. The young Italian had likewise a green frock, and the guards who were in search of the murderer, guided by false appearances, seized on him, and two other men not far off; they were all three loaded with irons and thrown into a gaol. The man in green, who was supposed to have committed the murder, being brought before the awful magistrate, and interrogated, denies with a proper and manly assurance, the fact, and persists in being innocent. The imperious judge, unaccustomed to receive such bold answers, after loading him with the most execrable expressions, ordered him to be put to the torture. He suffered all those torments invented by the most barbarous and refined cruelty, with a surprising fortitude: they could not make him own a crime he had never perpetrated, and the only words that he uttered were, I am innocent—forgive them Lord for they know not what they are doing.

The proofs not being quite satisfactory they did not dare to condemn him to death; but upon these *semi* proofs, they sent him to the galleys for five years, at Toulon. The young man wrote the whole of this unlucky affair to his banker at Paris, begging him not to let his father in Italy know what had happened, for fear of hastening his death, if he thought him culpable; or of involving him in endless trouble by attempting to annul the fatal sentence of Avignon; besides, he hoped that his innocence might be clearly proved, as it happened soon after. The money his father allowed him for travelling was punctually remitted to the galleys by the Paris banker, who received the customary receipts with a false date from Madrid, London or Paris.

By the will of Providence, that will never permit the innocent to suffer, the real murderer was con-

demned to the galleys for another crime, and, as chance would have it, was chained to the same oar with the innocent young Italian. The villain behaved in such a shocking manner that he was hated by all the slaves, and at length he completed the score of his crimes by killing the serjeant of the guards. Before his execution he declared before M. de Jean, grand provost, of Toulon harbour, that he had committed the murder near Avignon, for which another man was sent to the galleys. His testament confirmed the whole of his deposition, and M. de Jean, in order to deliver the unhappy young man from a punishment he did not deserve, began to act so vigorously, and so earnestly, that the king of France has ordered the young Italian to be discharged; and declares by his letters that he was wrongfully condemned for a crime he had not committed.

When the young man had received the most flattering hopes of M. de Jean of his delivery, he wrote to his mistress the whole of his sad history, and she, thoroughly convinced of the truth of his doleful tale, acquainted him immediately that his father and mother were dead, and that she should come to Toulon to see him. True love never harbours suspicions; she was sure her lover could not deceive her, and repaired immediately to Toulon—to the very galley, among the slaves. I leave to the reader to paint to his mind this tender interview. The scene affected all the beholders; and it was with difficulty the two lovers were recovered to life, after the mutual shock they were seized with at their first meeting. Two days after his majesty's orders were obeyed, and the marriage was celebrated. The young couple are happy in each other, but the young man wishes to have his character re-established in the eyes of the world. The unhappy young Italian, delivered from slavery through his majesty's gracious orders, is gone post to Rome, and with the king's letters, he hopes to have his suit received, and his innocence proclaimed in all parts of France and Italy.

March 12. Since the last arrival of ships from the Indies, a report has been spread of a revolution having happened in China, the nature of which, however, is not generally known; it is supposed that the death of the emperor is the principal circumstance: and that the English have availed themselves of it to form an establishment in the island of Formosa; they have obtained permission from the governor and principal mandarins.

VENICE, March 3.

Letters from Corfu, dated the 5th of February, give a melancholy account of an earthquake happening in that island. The country has suffered considerable damage, and part of the city has been destroyed. One hundred and twenty persons perished in the ruins of the buildings; but the number of the wounded is much more considerable. The governor with great difficulty escaped in a chalmpe with all his family and domestics. The government hotel is swallowed up. We are informed that the islands of St. Maure and Argos have received much damage, but we have not yet had a circumstantial relation.

AMSTERDAM, March 9.

The regency of this city passed a resolution this evening, tending to restore the command of the garrison at the Hague to his highness the stadtholder, with a few restrictions which may accommodate the late differences. This resolution was carried by twenty-one against fifteen. This affair is expected to be finally settled by their high mightinesses in the course of the present session.

LONDON, February 1.

The emperor seems resolved to barricade his dominions effectually against all importation of our manufactures into the same! Whence this inveteracy of imperial Joseph to this country, which was the salvation of his mother, and the preservation of her august house, when tottering on the brink of perdition, even within our memory? Query. Is not all this done in concert with, and at the instigation of the French court, with which we fondly imagine ourselves to be carrying on a negotiation for a friendly commercial treaty? Surely these are subjects worthy of a serious deep inquiry of our ministers, as well as of parliament at its first meeting.

Feb. 11. A letter from Lanfair, Montgomeryshire, dated January 30, says, "Yesterday at noon, about a mile from hence, the ground, with a considerable part of the turnpike road, gave way almost perpendicularly, quite into the river, which has left a dreadful chasm of at least 150 yards."

Feb. 16. A letter from the Hague, dated Feb. 4, says, "We hear that the count de Rechtersen, am-

bassador to their high mightinesses at the court of Madrid, has written to them in his last dispatches, that the count de Florida Blanca, premier to the king of Spain, has communicated his majesty's intentions to join the alliance concluded between the republic and the court of France, and that his majesty wished to know the inclination of the states on this subject. It is also said, that the Spanish minister at the Hague has had several conferences to the same purpose with the members of administration. It is very probable that their high mightinesses will agree to the proposal, an event which must engage the attention of Europe."

Extrait of a letter from Vienna, January 30.

"Couriers are now passing more frequently than was ever known between our court and those of Petersburg, Berlin, Naples, and Venice. Notwithstanding the avowed design and projected plan of the court of Versailles to preserve peace in Europe, it is imagined that the influence of the French cabinet will prove too feeble to check the ambition of those powers who are evidently seeking occasions for, and resolutely determined upon hostile measures."

March 4. The situation of the Dutch West-India company may be best seen by the memorial which they addressed to the states of the province of Holland, in which they set forth, that having opened a loan for a million of florins at three per cent. they had been so unsuccessful that only 63,000 were subscribed, the rest being furnished by their great mightinesses; but the company having been obliged to repay 350,000 florins before borrowed of their mightinesses, and to defray other expences, the whole million had been absorbed. They therefore request of the states to put them in possession of an additional three millions of florins, either by effectual subsidies, or by their securities to receive annual subsidies. That they should think themselves happy if they could wait for the course of the deliberations of the states, but that is not possible, they being already obliged to suspend the payment of their quota to supply the wants of the direction of Surinam, and utterly incapable of sending next spring necessaries to the colonies. That it would be imprudent in them to desire a larger sum, or to limit any, as they might either fix it too high or too low. They therefore crave leave to apply from time to time to the states for relief as occasion may require.

Extrait of a letter from Constantinople, January 7.

"The army of the pacha of Scutari is said to amount to 40,000 men. We are certainly informed, that he hath already passed the Drin and the mountains of Costengos, and that he is on his way to Romania at the head of his troops. As his track is marked by the most barbarous cruelties, proceeding from his fierce and revengeful spirit, it has occasioned great alarms at Constantinople. Government has given orders to Abdi Pacha Beglierberg, of Romania, the resident at Sophia, to muster immediately all the troops in that province; the pachas of Morea, Silistrea, Salonica, and some others of Albania, are to join him with their forces of their governments. Notwithstanding these precautions, however, and superiority of numbers, it is generally feared it will not be easy to defeat this rebel, as we have been informed the greatest part of his army consists of christians, who are excited to vengeance for the persecutions and extortions of the captain-pacha while governor of Morea, and who had obliged numbers of them to quit the country, after which mahmud pacha, who some time was meditating a revolt, received them under his protection, and had no difficulty to persuade them to make a common cause of it, and take up arms against his sovereign. The influence of the captain-pacha is such in the administration, that they imagine by directing their vengeance against the empire at large, it must in the end fall upon him, nor is this the first time that an insatuated populace has been misled by a similar mode of reasoning."

March 16. Private advices from Leghorn impart, that news had been brought there of the success of the chevalier Emo, the Venetian admiral, against the Tunisians. Having ordered a feint attack upon a particular part of the place, he drew thither all the garrison whilst, improving a favourable wind, which sprung up at the time, the admiral entered the Goulette, where having landed fifteen hundred men, he levelled with the ground all the new fortifications erected by the besieged, during the truce formerly granted to the dey: a strong castle was also taken by the Venetians, who spiked all the ordnance they found there, which consisted of several large pieces of artillery. It is added, that a great number of Tunisians were killed; but as the account is not official, this relation cannot be given as a positive fact.