

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, A U G U S T 10, 1786.

P A R I S, May 26.

THE negotiation, began with Mr. Eden, the English minister, relative to the conclusion of a commercial treaty between this country and England, seems to cool a little; it is said, that Mr. Eden raises so many difficulties that the conclusion of the said treaty is much thrown back by them.

May 29. A report prevails here of a serious and successful attack made by the Venetian admiral upon the town of Sfax, which it is said, was carried on as follows: Chevalier Emo, being with his squadron off the Tunisian coast, examined what part of it was most open to an attack, and thought no place more proper than the town of Sfax, not only because it lies nearer to the coast, but also on account of its being only twelve miles distant from three small islands, where, in case of a repulse, he might find a proper harbour for his ships. The attack began with incredible ardour on the part of the Venetian, and was opposed with no less bravery by the besieged; but several of the latter being unfortunately killed, or totally disabled by four large pieces of iron ordnance bursting on a sudden, that the garrison was thrown into the utmost confusion. Chevalier Emo improved the opportunity, and having landed 1500 men, attempted an assault, which succeeded perhaps beyond his warmest expectations; for the besieged, struck with a panic, took to flight, and all the rest were put to the sword.

L O N D O N, May 10.

Among the various circumstances which will serve in the hands of future historians, to mark the character of the king of Prussia, none will appear more striking than this, that in old age, when the infirmities of that period were heaped upon his head, and his life hung in suspense in the hands of his physicians, so vigorous was his genius, and so powerful the terror of his name, that Germany, and the neighbouring nations, though armed and prepared for hostilities, kept profound silence and peace.

Extract of a letter from Chester, May 4.

Our county gaol furnishes the following singular instances of longevity: the ages of three persons confined for debt amount exactly to 288 years! and the united ages of six others are 366. One of these poor people has been in prison twelve years, and the others from three to five each. Myrterious, surely, is that policy which dooms to perpetual imprisonment persons whose only crime is poverty! "In England, says Voltaire, if a poor fellow cannot readily pay a little money when his hands are at liberty, the better to enable him to do it, they load him with handcuffs!" Well might our laws respecting debtors draw this sarcasm from the French wit.

On Wednesday was married at Manchester, Mr. John Hardman, master of the Pack-horse, in Oldham, to Mrs. Sarah Wealdon, of the same place. What is remarkable there attended at the ceremony an uncle and an aunt, a father and a mother, a brother and a sister, a son and a daughter, a man and his wife, a servant and the master, together with the mistress, bride and bridegroom, and yet all but two persons.

May 20. A letter from Mahon says, that there has been a very smart engagement, within sight of that garrison, between a Venetian man of war and an Algerine corsair, when after an hour and a quarter's fighting the corsair was sunk, and all the crew drowned. The Venetian put in there to repair some damages, and to get some relief for his wounded men.

Extract of a letter from Londonderry, April 27.

This day arrived here the St. Patrick, Donaldson, from Leghorn; the captain says, he was boarded in the Mediterranean by the crew of a piratical vessel, who, after rummaging the ship, and detaining him several hours, took some of his cargo, and great part of his provisions, and then suffered him to proceed. He says, that a few hours after he fell in with two Portuguese frigates, and informed the commander of what had happened, who crowded all the sails he could, and went in quest of them.

May 25. The dominions of Russia, with the late acquisitions, are so very extensive, that the czarina is sovereign of no fewer than seventeen formerly independent sovereignties, besides the imperial one. It is with a view to know their utmost extent, the disposition of the people, the nature of the soil, the number of inhabitants, their religion and political opinions, customs and attachments, that the late expedition from Petersburg has taken place.

It is no mean proof of the lenity and integrity of the Russian government, that in that extensive and divided empire, insurrections and intestine divisions happen as seldom as in the smallest state of known existence in the whole world.

May 26. The aim of the French, says a correspondent, is not to conquer England, if they could, but to lessen its importance; they have done this in a great degree, by assisting the Americans; and now they, the emperor, the Dutch, and in short all the world, are maiming our trade; and who can say what the consequences of the king of Prussia's death may be? It is probable, however, that it will be productive of a war, in which this country, engaged in the German league, must become a party.

It is whispered, that the great business of the British cabinet at present, is the adoption of a plan laid down by the marquis of Lansdown, for colonizing the province of Nova-Scotia with American refugees. The advantages which are expected to accrue to this country, from settling a number of faithful friends strongly attached to our happy constitution, are infinite. This plan is said to extend to Canada, St. John's, and Cape-Briton. To infuse, it seems, a considerable portion of the spirit of monarchy into the government of what we may call British America, as well as into that of our Asiatic dependencies, as found to be necessary for the purpose of retaining them in subjection.

May 28. The emperor continues indefatigably to apply himself to the regulation of the internal government and police of his dominions; every day produces some new ordinance on that subject, and if he continues a few years on the throne, it seems probable that there will be an universal change. Of those last published, the most remarkable is that for abolishing the general assembly of the states of Austrian Lombardy, with all the offices appertaining to it, it being the imperial pleasure, that from henceforth there be preserved in each city only the assembly of its own district, which shall conform its regulations to what shall be determined, ordained, and declared, by his majesty. So obnoxious is the very name of the general assembly of the people to an absolute prince, that it seems even this empty phantom gave umbrage. In its stead, and in lieu of all other tribunals for the affairs of politics and finance, a council of government is erected, of which the count de Wilzeck is president, and M. de Pecci counsellor of state, vice president, vested with the full powers of the presidentship in case of the count's absence.

The foreign papers teem with contradictory accounts concerning the intentions of the divan. To-day war is on the point of breaking out; to-morrow it is all peace. A change of ministers leads so naturally to conjecture a change of measures, that it is very seldom the ideas can be separated. In the mean time the gentlemen who are for keeping peace between the two christian imperial powers and the grand signior are cutting out work for the latter, in the reduction of the rebellious beys of Egypt; but whether the armament destined by them for that purpose, consisting of two caravals and a bomb-ketch, will be sufficient, may perhaps be questionable. Indeed the palpable absurdity of the assertion refutes itself.

The people of Dantzick look with a jealous eye on the new trade opened at Cherfon: they say that city will in future furnish Poland with the goods which she formerly took from them, and the other ports of the Baltic; the duties at which places are become very heavy, in consequence of the imposts laid on by his Prussian majesty. A vessel belonging to Marseilles, named The Great Catharine, is arrived at Cherfon, with a lading of wine and other goods, and will soon be followed by another, named The Prince Potemkin, on the account of the house of Tepper, lately established there. This trade ought to rouse the attention of those nations in particular who navigate the Baltic, especially as the passage of the Dardanelles is open to no other but the Russian flag.

The Venetians seem to be ambitious of recovering their long lost maritime fame. By the last advices from Cadiz, they have received authentic accounts there, that the chevalier Emo, at the head of a squadron of gallees belonging to the Venetian state, had taken the strong fortrels and town of Sfax, near Tunis, which capitulated after four days siege. Four large vessels, and seven xebecs, were taken in the harbour, besides a large quantity of naval stores, and 2000 quintals of grain.

A few days ago as the workmen were making a new turnpike road at Benacre, in Suffolk, one of them struck his pick-axe against a stone bottle,

which contained about nine hundred and twenty pieces of silver coin of Julius Cæsar, that have been, as supposed by the date, buried there 1500 years.

Extract of a letter from Middleburgh, May 10.

The admiralty of Zealand have ordered a *fiete marine* for the entertainment of the prince of Orange, during his visit to this province. It is appointed at Flushing, where there are the greatest number of men of war in commission. Such an affair having never been seen in Holland in the present century, will doubtless bring a great concourse of people together.

May 30. The princess royal, it is said, has declared against all marriages by proxy. She claims the privilege of a British born subject, to choose for herself whenever she changes her state; and her two next sisters seem to be much of the same way of thinking.

June 6. The Governor Handcock, Brittel, from New-York, for Malaga, is taken by an Algerine corsair, and sent into Tetuan, where they are endeavouring to procure their release from the emperor of Morocco. The Handcock is a large ship, and mounts 16 guns; she fought the Algerine an hour and a half, and it was her being so much disabled that obliged the captors to carry her into the first port.

A letter from Vienna, says, "It is still said, that by order of the emperor, the royal crown is making here, which the empress of Russia is to wear on the day of her coronation, in quality of queen of Taurida. This crown will be extremely rich. The finest diamonds, pearls, and precious stones belonging to the emperor, are to be employed in it. His imperial majesty, besides extending his troops towards the frontiers of Turkey, to facilitate to the empress the peaceable acquisition of this new kingdom, will have the glory of furnishing the crown which is to serve at the inauguration of the great Catharine, in this new quality of queen of Taurida. If we may believe the news from Constantinople, the Turks do not seem much disposed to suffer the empress of Russia to try, in quietness, how that fine crown will fit her head. Time will discover the result of all these fine projects, but a whole year must elapse first."

June 8. Letters from Vienna, dated May 12, mention, that in case the house of Austria should think it proper to make an alliance against the Porte, in favour of Russia, the states of Venice had voluntarily requested to be included in the treaty; and were, supposing a war inevitable, preparing for it with the utmost alacrity. They had eleven new gallees on the stocks, and had purchased of the emperor at Trieste 15,000 quintals of gun-powder.

Extract of a letter from one of the crew that was on board the *Caroline*, Great, on the 22d of March, when she was totally lost in the Gulf of Florida; dated New-Providence, April 14, 1786.

We had one of the most providential escapes from death, that ever happened to a set of poor unhappy mortals: on the 22d of March, at two in the morning, we were cast away in a violent gale of wind, coming through the Gulf of Florida, upon some rocks called The Southern Kokufes, and in less than five minutes the ship went to pieces, and left eleven of us hanging by a part of her bow, until the next morning when we got upon a part of the quarter-deck, which remained whole; there we remained, without a morsel to eat or a drop of any thing to drink, five days and nights, some without jackets, hats or shoes, myself having on only one thin jacket, and a pair of trousers. On the fifth evening we picked up our small boat, which had escaped from the general wreck, without having received any considerable damage, into which all hands got, and once more committed ourselves to the protection of Heaven. Eleven of us in a London kiff, twenty leagues from land, without an oar, having nothing but paddles made from the staves of a broken cask: next day about sun set, we saw the land, and about ten o'clock the same night we got safe on shore. Four of our people being then almost dead for want, and lying in the bottom of the boat, and the rest of us so very weak, we could hardly walk. When we got on shore, we could not find either water or people, though we had seen a fire before we landed; after two hours walking from place to place, at last discovered a sloop at anchor, on board which we went, but did not find any person in her. In rummaging about we found two casks of water, and one of bread. Next morning we hoisted the sloop's colours, when the people of the island came to us, and gave us every assistance in their power. That afternoon we hired a small schooner, which brought us to this