

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, O C T O B E R 29, 1795.

W E S E L, August 9.

ACCORDING to all accounts, the French are positively determined to cross the Rhine in several places above Cologne, and seem only to wait for the decreasing of the enormous height of that river at present. Along the banks of the Rhine, near Duffeldorff, &c. they have erected tremendous batteries to cover this undertaking, to which pontoons and all other requisites are in readiness.—The van-guard will consist of the division of general Lefevre, of 14,000 men. The Imperialists on their part, adopt all necessary measures to render that undertaking as difficult as possible. The threatening preparations have spread terror and confusion over Duffeldorff and its vicinity, which town is almost empty, a great number of inhabitants with their best effects having left it.—Near Coblenz it is also feared the French will cross the Rhine.

Letters from Crevelt state, that a courier from Basle had passed through that place, to carry positive and repeated orders to the Hague, to respect the goods and effects of the stadtholder.

B A S L E, August 8.

The Prussian minister of state, baron de Hardenberg, has had several conferences with M. Barthelemy. The Imperial minister, baron de Bartenstein, is daily expected here; it is even assured that the plan for a general peace of the empire, will be finished in a few days, by the deputies of several states of the empire now here.

France, it is said, has insisted that Basle shall be the place for the congress for peace.

F R A N C F O R T, August 8.

According to letters from Berlin, the decision of the great affair, relative to Poland will speedily be accomplished, and it will soon be settled what part shall fall to the share of the court of Vienna.

C O L O G N E, August 9.

Every thing here prefigures great hostilities. For many days past all has been in motion. All persons attached to the navigation of the Rhine, have been obliged to give their names to be enregistered. The old batteries on the Rhine are re-established, and they have even raised new works and redoubts. They have all made embrasures in the walls of the city.

Yesterday there arrived in the environs of Juliers a transport of 160 pieces of cannon and howitzers. Two more of the like kind are expected very shortly, one of which is destined for the side of Crevelt, whilst the other is to be employed in the new fortifications of our city, and along the Rhine.

P A R I S, August 28.

A report made to the popular society of Nantes, in the sitting of August 26, by the commissaries appointed for the purpose of getting information on the facts there related.

On the 25th of this month two waggons loaded with 1,150,000 livres in assignats, 25,000 in cash, six waggons loaded with flour, two with rum, brandy, &c. were taken by the Chouans between Craquefou and Petit-Mars, (nine miles from hence) in going to Chateaubriant, the place whither it was destined.

It is impossible to hear any thing so ferocious as the unheard of cruelties committed by those villains on our brave brethren of the battalion of Arras, one of the best disciplined in the republic; in a word, the one which first entered with the legion of Nantes the forests Penthièvre at Quiberon. Those unfortunate men, about 300 in number, have been assailed by 4 or 5000 Chouans, who surrounded them on all sides at their coming out of Craquefou, where some of them having unfortunately been thirsty begged of the inhabitants some water to drink. A woman, or rather a monster, shewing a pretended humanity, said that water would hurt them, and that she intended to give them a more wholesome drink! She fetched a pitcher in which there were perhaps about 20 bottles of wine, which, it is said, was poisoned; of which all who were thirsty drank, their number was great, and the weather very hot. The troops marched on, and after having gone little less than a mile, several volunteers were obliged to stop on account of the violent pains they felt; many of them expired on the spot, being considerably swelled up. At that very moment the troops heard the dreadful horn, signal of the rallying of the Chouans, and women roaring forth *lads, come to us, come!* In the mean time, the whole republican troops were surrounded, the firing on both sides was brisk notwithstanding the inequality of arms; the Chouans had guns called *caudriere*, carrying 500 paces, the battalions of Arras fought with that courage and intrepidity peculiar to the defenders of liberty, until their strength as well as cartridges, five picks of

which every one was provided with, were exhausted; necessity then compelled them to push their way with charged bayonets through that horde of ferocious cannibals.

Upon their being summoned to resign their colours, they answered, that as long as a single man of the battalion should breathe, he would risk his life in defence of the standard of liberty; that the French soldiers (the true republicans) were strangers to the survival of their honour. This sublime answer is worthy of the conquerors of Quiberon. They afterwards charged on the Chouans and almost by a miracle happily reached Nort, (five leagues from Nantes). The number of men lost in that unhappy engagement is not yet well known, but at the muster more than 220 men were missing.

Thirty wounded arrived here yesterday by water; they imparted to us the horrors committed by those villains, and the magnanimous behaviour of the captain of the 4th company of that battalion; the Chouans offered him his life, should he consent to accept of the post of captain among them. His answer was, "that he had rather die a republican." He was immediately delivered up to the flames.

Extract of a letter from Nantes, dated August 20.

"General of brigade Oambroy gave to the commander in chief an account of his having searched into the marshes of Chailans. The rebels fled before the republican troops. Not a single vessel of the enemy is seen on the coast.

"In that expedition we have got certain information of the landing effected at Bec, on the 29th Thermidor. Only seven emigrants, one of whom was killed, got ashore. His name was Lefebure, he was much regretted by the Vendéans on account of his being particularly acquainted with the coast. He himself had piloted the little British fleet, the landing of which he contrived.

"This convoy carried to Belleville by Charette, though important, is not so much so as it was reported to be. It consists only of 74 waggons loaded with 6000 muskets, as many cutlasses and pistols, 22 barrels of gunpowder, and a great quantity of blue, red, and gray cloaths.—It is affirmed that each division of the Vendean army will be clothed with a particular colour. The coats were cut and would have been immediately distributed.

"Two four-pounders have been landed; this, no doubt, a new present England intends making the republic, if the troops, too few in number at that time, did not go to receive it, it was because they thought it their duty to wait for their brethren in arms, who are daily coming from the northern army and down from the heights of the Pyrennees, it will not be long certainly before they go to draw that pledge out of Charette's hands."

N A N T E S, August 19.

The different detachments of the army of the north have left this city, and are now on their march to Chalans and St. Gilles, about 40 miles southwest of Nantes, in the heart of La Vendee; these are the same places where the English meditated to join the pretended army of 40,000 well disciplined and well armed royalists, commanded by the soldiant invincible character; but it is as yet a mystery how these bragging islanders will effect their descent, or meet their formidable allies; for the posts are all occupied by the republicans, the coast is lined with troops, and battalions are pouring in from all sides, not to combat armies of royalists, but to sweep the department of La Vendee, and exterminate the dispersed band of robbers who disturb the public peace.

The presence of the troops of the line who appeared singularly exasperated against a certain class of inhabitants, who do but ill dissemble their hatred against all that is republican, occasioned some disturbances in this city; the three thousand men of the regiment of the department of Allier, in particular accused the merchants and the rich, of being authors of the rebellion in La Vendee, and the supporters of the chiefs of the Chouans—they swore a war of death against all the Muscadins and royalists; an immense crowd of citizens did the same; they paraded the streets singing the Marceillois hymn, the solemn tune of which struck all those with terror, who, a little before, had confidently expected the return of former prerogatives, and exclusive privileges.—unhappily at this moment of fermentation, ten thousand Chouans, sent in from Port St. Pere before the military tribunal, arrived, and were immediately immolated by the mob. No persuasions could bring the enraged multitude to their senses, they pretend that the Chouans ravaging the country like beasts of prey, deserved to be treated like beasts of prey, who ought to be shot down wherever they were met with.

L O N D O N, August 23.

The mail from Italy brings no news of importance. At Leghorn it was reported on the 29th ult. that the

English and French fleets were at sea; but it was believed that the latter, on account of their inferiority, would avoid an action.

The treasury papers, now, that a second expedition to the coast of France has been resolved upon, endeavour to amuse the public with an account of the vast force of Charette's army, and of his determination to co-operate in the most effectual manner with the emigrants. We have no reason from the accounts in the Paris papers to believe that Charette is in great force; nay, it is even doubtful whether he has commenced hostilities; but if Charette has so great a force as is stated, his exertions, it is easy to see, will be ineffectual; and the only effect that will result from them will be unavailing massacre and bloodshed.

Advices of the 19th inst. have been received from Sir John Warren; by these it appears that opposition had been made by the republicans to the landing of some ammunition from the British fleet, destined for the royalists. Charette sent down a detachment of 1500 of his men, who defeated the republicans, and accomplished the object of the enterprise. The republicans lost a considerable number of men; the royalists about 200. This is so far important, as it is the first active hostile operation since the sham treaty foisted between the commissioners of the convention and Charette.

The object of the French is, it is said, by crossing the Rhine, to force the emperor to enter into a negotiation. His minister at Basle, the Paris papers assert, has consented on the part of the emperor to the renunciation of the Netherlands, on condition that they shall be erected into a separate state.

From the accounts received by a French officer arrived in town from Brittany, it appears, that several of the French emigrants taken at Quiberon, have found means to escape, and join the Chouans; that the military commission at Vannes has condemned only to one month's imprisonment, all such emigrants as at the time of their emigration had not attained the 16th year of their age; which measure, as no extracts from the baptismal registers were required, has saved the lives of a great number of persons.—Of one thousand emigrated noblemen taken prisoners at Quiberon, only 188 have been shot.

Aug. 25. The following anecdote of capt. Moore, of the Syrene frigate is transmitted to us by a gentleman on board that vessel; we feel a national pride in giving it to the world.

During a recent cruise off the coast of France; capt. Moore fell in with some small fishing vessels, who on his approach abandoned their nets, and affected their escape to shore; being in want of fresh provisions, he ordered out his boats, and drew the nets, by which means he obtained a considerable quantity of fish. With due consideration, however, to the wretched Poissards, whom he had thus deprived of the hire of their labour, he ascertained the value of the fish; which proved, on the testimony of the pilot to be six guineas; and this sum, together with an appropriate letter he put into a bladder, and suspended it to the nets, which he again threw into the water and set sail. The affrighted fishermen from the shore witnessed the early part of the transaction, and on the departure of the frigate returned to their station, for the purpose of saving the remnant of their nets, which, according to usage, they expected to have found hacked to pieces. How great must have been their gratitude and delight, when, on drawing in their nets, they not only discovered them whole, but the treasure attached to them! It is thus we should ever act. We war not against individuals, whom, in all the relative duties of life; we should consider as friends and brethren.

Of Peace.

In the first political circles, there are those who at this moment firmly believe that a peace is now negotiating, by a side wind, between this country and France, and that its leading principle, the unqualified acknowledgement of the French republic, has already been conceded by our ministers!

The attempt at new conquests in the West-Indies, they say, is not to be regarded as contradictory of this statement.—Something must be done in the interim to amuse the public mind, and this expedition, however hazardous it may appear, when it is considered that the negroes of the French islands are now in freedom, will be regarded by the people in England with more complacency than the efforts, cruel on the one hand, and impotent on the other, which are directed against the coast of France!

The latest Paris Gazettes mention, that it is expected that the British government will undertake another expedition not against France but against Holland; and that the province of Zealand will be the immediate object of attack. It is also supposed, that an attempt will be made to block up the port of Ostend. The garrison of Ostend has, in consequence, been augmented, and a large body of troops has been dispatched to Ostend and Bruges.

Aug. 26. The following serious affair lately occurred at Tripoli, in Africa. A banditti being in a state of