

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1796.

G. E. N. O. A., January 22.

His minister plenipotentiary of his catholic majesty resident here, received the day before yesterday a courier from Madrid instantly on the receipt of this he sent off couriers with dispatches to the Spanish ministers at Turin, Parma, Florence, Rome, and Naples. It is thought that they relate to the present situation of the courts of Madrid and London, which seems to indicate an approaching rupture.

According to our latest advices from Corsica, the inhabitants of that island manifest more and more daily their hatred to the English. At Corfe, a Corsican regiment, in the pay of Great-Britain, has revolted, and taken up arms against another English regiment, which it attacked and put to flight, after having killed fourteen men, wounded a still greater number, and made several prisoners. The latter regiment retreated to Bastia. We learn in addition, that at Bastia six English officers, who had been assassinated during the night, were found on the following morning in the vicinity of a coffee-house.

Our letters from Vintimilla announce, that a reinforcement of 2200 French troops had arrived there. General Scherer is at Nice, and has left orders to exercise daily the French army stationed on the banks of our river.

BRUSSELS, February 4.

The hopes of peace are entirely vanished, and the preparations for a new campaign are immense. The French armies on the Rhine are to be augmented to 300,000, and the young men of the first requisition are daily exercising. The French government cannot possibly accede to the terms of peace proposed by the coalited powers. It will only make peace on condition that Belgium and Leige are formally given up to France, and that the independence of Holland be acknowledged by those powers. Austria and England have absolutely refused to accede to any such terms, and a new campaign is in consequence resolved upon. The garrisons of our new departments, especially that of Brussels, are reinforcing, for which purpose troops are daily arriving from our armies on the Rhine and Moselle. At Luxemburg 6000 men are expected from the Parisian army, and that fortress has provisions for a year. To allay the ferment occasioned by the reports propagated by the French emigrants here, that France would give up Belgium to the emperor, the minister of police at Paris has sent circular letters to the central administrations contradicting these reports.

Feb. 9. New orders have just been given to the army of the Sambre and the Meuse, relative to its position and its winter quarters. It was at first resolved to send troops to the rear of the Moselle, and to remove the head quarters to Cologne. This resolution, however, has been abandoned, and the head quarters are to remain at Bonn.

The Sambre and Meuse army extends from the Moselle to the Lower Rhine. There is to be on the right bank a corps composed of three divisions of troops under the command of general Lesvevre; two divisions are to line the left bank from Andernach to Crevelt; two more divisions are distributed in the garrisons of the new departments of the republic; one division in the environs of Luxemburg, and the remainder of the army is to occupy the whole line beyond the Moselle, and the entrenched camp of the Ghartruse, and Coblenz.

The preparations for war have never been pursued on both sides with such activity. A fifth campaign is considered as inevitable.

It is said that the French government is determined upon the freedom of the Scheld, and that it has been determined to abide by the arrest of the committee of public safety, by which the opening of the Scheld was directed. But the Dutch government are not very eager to satisfy the wishes of the directory. There has not one neutral merchantman entered the port of Antwerp. The Dutch stop them and carry them into their ports. The French rear-admiral Van Stabel, who is arrived at Antwerp, has declared, that the directory are resolved to maintain the freedom of the Scheld.

According to a calculation made in the seven departments, composing the ci-devant Belgic-Provinces, upwards of thirty thousand horses have been put into requisition for the service of the armies since the entry of the French into Belgium. The new law will produce a great number more for the war service.

Feb. 14. Advices from the right bank of the Rhine state, that the Austrians have scarcely any troops towards the Lower Rhine, almost the whole of their forces being concentrated between Ehrenbreitstein and Cassel. These advices add, that the states of the empire, in concert with the emperor, are making strong efforts to commence the campaign with the greatest vigour possible. By these exertions they trust, that

they will force France to a peace that will preserve the integrity of the empire.

A commissioner sent by the French government has just reached the head quarters of the army of Sambre and Meuse and Bonn. His mission is thought to relate to new military contributions to be levied on the territories situated between the Meuse and the Rhine.

The agents of the republic having, on their arrival here, put in requisition the most valuable furniture for their own use, the administration of the department of Dyle has just published a mandate, enjoining these agents to restore the furniture to its owners, or to pay for it a fair price.

Letters from Zealand state, that the greatest activity prevails in the ports of Flushing and Middleburg, in preparing several ships of war for sea. There is a small French squadron at anchor in the Western Scheld, within sight of Flushing, which is to join the Dutch. Rear-admiral Van Stabel will probably have the command. Party spirit runs very high in Zealand. The patriots and the Orangists no longer conceal their hatred of each other; and these divisions are increased by a third party which has started up, called the patriots of 1787, who wish to reform abuses, but are decisive in their support of the federal system, which has existed in the United Provinces for so many centuries, and do not wish for a total revolution. The prevailing party, however, which has the armed force at its command, has determined to convoke a national convention: appropriate instructions have been sent to the deputies from Zealand, and to the states general.

COBLENZ, February 1.

We are made to submit to new contributions, even before we have acquitted ourselves of those already imposed on us. We are now to contribute to the forced loan; and this city is to pay the quota proportion of 600,000 livres in specie. Thirty persons have been seized on as hostages: many of these had been in the same predicament once or twice before, among them the dean of the Chapter of St. Castor, who was seized at the altar in the performance of divine service.

These hostages are each of them guarded at his own house by two men, whom he is obliged to feed and pay. The president of administration has set out for Cologne to borrow the money necessary for the payment of this new fine; but it is apprehended that he will fail in his negotiation.

DEUX-PONTS, February 1.

This country, as well as all the territory occupied by the French between the Rhine and the Moselle, is obliged to contribute to the forced loan. The French director-general of contributions has issued a proclamation to this purpose, which, among other things, states, that on the 1st decade of Pluviose, the quota to be furnished by each commune must be determined. If delayed beyond that time, those who fail are to be removed to some fortress in the interior of France. The whole sum must be paid on the 10th of February, and military force will be employed against those who refuse to pay. According to this, the municipal officers and citizens must be answerable for the least delay, and all remonstrances are entirely unnecessary. "My instructions," says the director-general, "are such, that I can pay no attention to such remonstrances. I know that your country has suffered greatly by the war; that you have furnished a number of articles for the army; that you have borne for two years great revolutionary taxes, and have paid a considerable part of your contributions; but so might every other part of the republic allege; and upon the whole, this is only a loan which you are making to government, which is at present employed in deliberations about the means of repayment."

The city of Deux-Ponts is to furnish 40,000 florins towards this loan.

FRANCFORT, February 6.

The Imperialists are now making every necessary preparation for opening a new campaign; and at Mannheim some hundred thousand cartridges are getting ready.

General Haddick commands the Imperial troops in the valley of Ehrenbreitstein. The prince of Wurtemberg is gone thence to Mannheim, where he will stay a few days; on passing Neuwied on the 30th ult. a French picket fired about twenty musket shots at him. The French commandant at Coblenz was informed of this violation of the armistice, and promised all satisfaction.

Report says that field-marshal Wurmsler is going to the army in Italy, and that the archduke Charles and general Mack are to take his place in the army on the Rhine. The French in our neighbourhood continue with vigour their operations for opening the campaign.

VIENNA, January 28.

The fine regiment of Charles Lorraine, cuirassiers, set out yesterday for the army of the Rhine.

The inhabitants of the suburb of Wieden, in which the house of count-general Clairfayt is situated, united with a society of the inhabitants of this city, will give, on one of the early days of the ensuing month, a festival in honour of that hero, which will be at the same time worthy of his great renown, and of the gratitude of the subjects of Austria.

The trial of the miscreant *Tauscher* is still unremittingly continued. His interrogatories have already brought to light several of his accomplices, whose atrocious plot was to have been executed at Milan at the moment when the French should have succeeded in penetrating into that duchy.

Our army of Italy has entirely entered into winter quarters. Eleven other battalions, two squadrons of hussars, and the pioneers and pontoon men remain in Piedmont. The seventeen other battalions, the Hungarians, and three Neapolitan regiments of cavalry, have taken up their quarters in Lombardy. This army will be reinforced by five battalions and a regiment of hussars.

BERLIN, January 26.

Our cabinet, without taking an active part in the events which may accelerate a peace, seems notwithstanding to watch the affairs of France very closely. The day before yesterday a courier arrived here from our ambassador at Paris. We are ignorant of the contents of the dispatches intrusted to him.

HAGUE, February 6.

It is now determined that the ci-devant pensioner Van de Spiegel is to be brought to the castle of Woerden as a state prisoner.

Our minister Brouwer has written from Paris, that all hopes of peace have entirely vanished, and the French intend shortly to open the campaign on the Rhine with an army of 300,000 men.

ONEIGLIA, January 18.

The French continue to vex and harass us.—They have put in requisition two thirds or all the corn in the country, and are consuming the other third in a variety of ways, inasmuch that we shall shortly have no bread to eat. The effects of emigrants are disposed of to the highest bidder, for specie only.

MILAN, January 26.

General Beaulieu is expected in a few days to go to the Imperial head quarters at Pavia. All the rumours of an armistice, which were in circulation, were entirely void of any foundation—as late as the 19th inst. 200 French advanced against Cossaria, but were repulsed with considerable loss.

Jan. 28. The English fleet, under admiral Jervis, is again at St. Florenzo. A division of it, consisting of four frigates and six cutters, is cruising near Toulon, and has taken several vessels bound for Marseilles. The French privateers have taken an English vessel, destined for Naples, valued at 200,000 zechins (about 100,000l.)

Citizen Villars has been nominated minister plenipotentiary to the republic of Genoa. The Imperial general Argentau is expected here, where his conduct will be inquired into by a military committee. The Imperial regiment Schmitzfeld, to which our late losses were in a great measure ascribed, has now been honourably acquitted.

PARIS, 28 Pluviose, February 17.

GENERAL PEACE.

The following observations on the great question of the basis of negotiation for a general peace, are extracted from one of our Journals, as an example of the freedom of discussion in which our periodical writers indulge themselves:

"The question relative to the limits of the French republic, on the solution of which there is again so much blood to be shed, has never been put in its true point of view. The partisans of the barrier of the Rhine, treat the subject as if we alone (the French) ought to pronounce upon it, and as if we had only to adopt the opinions which we preferred.

"But we are not merely to determine what would be in our opinion the most useful to us. To negotiate is not to give the word of command; it is not to dictate our will, it is not to consult our own interests alone, but to combine them with those of the enemy, in such a manner as that neither the one nor the other of the contracting parties shall be too much hurt. Otherwise it would be impossible to understand, or to approach towards one another. Here, for instance, some of our politicians demand the Rhine for a barrier. Great-Britain, Austria, the German Empire, and probably Prussia herself, would not permit it to us. It is very easy to prove that it would be advantageous to us