

OPERATIONS ON THE UPPER RHINE.

Frankfort, July 19.

A public notice has been given to the citizens here, that the French general in chief of the army of the Sambre and Meuse, has imposed on this city a contribution of 6,000,000 of livres in ready money, and 2,000,000 in kind; to be paid at three payments; the first payment of one third to be made by the 27th instant, and the last third by the 6th of August, under pain of increase of the sum, and military execution. It was fortunate, that during the bombardment of this city, the wind was calm, otherwise the whole city would have been destroyed.

Another letter, same date.

This morning at two o'clock, we heard an extremely heavy cannonade, which continued till seven, and was directed against the fortresses of Konigsstein, into which 600 Austrians have thrown themselves.

Mentz is now formally blockaded on all sides, and we no longer receive any intelligence from that city. It is said the Austrians have withdrawn the greater part of their troops from the garrison, and supplied their place with troops of the empire.

The French army of the Sambre and Meuse is now divided into three parts. One column has advanced by Gelbaufen to Alschaffenbourg, of which the French have possession; general Lesevie having his head quarters there on the 17th. The second column has passed the Mein near Hanau, and is drawing towards the Obenwald and the Bergstrasse. The third is on its march for the principality of Darmstadt.

The army of the North is likewise on its march; and a part of its advanced guard has arrived here. This is to be employed in the siege of Mentz.

This morning the magistrates put all the blue and green cloth in requisition, as they likewise have all the horses.

The palace of the prince of Tour and Taxis is kept in readiness for general Jourdan.

Every communication with the Upper Rhine is now entirely cut off by the progress of the French.

The gates of Frankfort are now shut, and no person can go in or out without a pass from the magistrates, which must be signed by the commandant. Besides the commandant, generals Bonnard, Ernouf, and Breyer are here—Generals Bernadotte, Bonneau, Olivier, and Marceau, have left the city, and the greater part of their troops have passed the Mein.

General Jourdan removed his head quarters the day before yesterday from Rendel to Dieback, and will endeavour to form a junction with general Morcau, who will likewise establish a communication with Buonaparte.

The first payment of the Frankfort contribution is already prepared in ready money, and it is supposed that the second will be procured on credit from some other Imperial city.

The minister of the electorate of Brunswick, with the Prussian and Hessian ministers, still remains at Frankfort, and is treated by the French generals with great respect as a neutral minister. The arms of Brunswick are still affixed at his house, and the gates are ordered to be open to him and his liveries.

The hereditary prince of Denmark entered this place on the same day it was taken possession of by the French. His highness was conducted by one of the French general Bonnard's adjutants. On the day following he went to Willemsstadt, and yesterday he dined with general Jourdan at Geinhausen.

Coblentz, July 21.

We expect that the ensuing night will be terrible. All the dispositions are made to attack the fortress according to rule. There are arrived heavy artillery, ammunition, and even troops in great numbers; seven batteries mounted with fifty pieces of cannon and mortars, are erected to fire upon the rock, which the besieged persist in thinking impregnable. It is presumed that the bombardment will be particularly directed against the valley.—We expect the night with anxiety. At this moment I write to you, all the batteries are playing. It has been decided between the besiegers and the garrison of Ehrenbreitstein, that no cannon shall be fired upon the town.

BOSTON, October 3.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

From the London Morning Chronicle, Aug. 9. The following official note has been sent from the French minister of foreign affairs, to the ambassador Bartschlesky, in Switzerland.

THE French government is informed, that the English, after having stopped, during the war, under the most frivolous pretexts, every neutral vessel, have just given the most positive orders to the commanders of their ships of war to seize, indiscriminately, all the cargoes which they may suppose to be destined for the French.

Whatever injury France may have sustained from this conduct, she has, nevertheless, continued to give the only example of the most inviolable respect for the law of nations, which constitutes the pledge and security of their civilization. But after having long tolerated the offence of this machiavelian system of policy, she at length finds herself compelled, by the most urgent motives, to have recourse to reprisals against England.

The Executive Directory therefore, orders all the political agents of the French republic, to inform the different governments that the squadrons and privateers of the republic will act against the ships of every country, in the same manner in which those governments suffer the English to act against them.

This measure ought not to surprise them, since it would be very easy to demonstrate, that it is imperiously prescribed by necessity, and is only the effect of a lawful defence. If these powers had known how to

make their commerce respected by the English, we should have had no occasion to have recourse to this afflicting extremity.

They will recollect, that the republic of France, ever generous, proposed to all the Belligerent powers to respect commerce! but that this proposition, honourable to the government which made it, and dictated by the most perfect philanthropy, was rejected with pride by a government accustomed to treat with contempt the most sacred laws of humanity, &c."

NEW-YORK, October 6.

Complete ruin of the Austrian army in Italy.

The following is translated from the *Moniteur* of the 14th inst.

In the sitting of the Council of Five Hundred, August 13, a secretary read the following message:

Citizen Directors,

The details that the directory transmitted to you by their message of August 12, on the operations of the army of Italy, were only the prelude to success more brilliant. The commander in chief of that army has transmitted to the directory the history of five memorable days, which assure, for ever, the glory of our arms in those countries.—In five days, behold the campaign finished in Italy! General Wurmsfer has lost 12,000 men, who have been killed, and 70 pieces of cannon have fallen into our hands, together with 120 waggons. The rest of his army is dispersed.

LAR. LEPEAUX, President.

By the executive directory,

LACARDE, Secretary.

On the proposition of Pastoret, the council decreed, "that the army of Italy has not ceased to deserve well of their country."

IMPORTANT.

Late last evening arrived the ship Hope, captain Hailey, in 41 days from London.—From the late hour the papers were received, we have only time to give the following:

LONDON, August 12.

The intelligence which we have this day to relate, is of so awful and tremendous a nature, that we cannot, without considerable agitation and pain, discharge our duty in communicating it to the public. It will excite wonder even in this miraculous campaign, and may perhaps produce some neglect and alarm in a nation that seems familiarised with defeat, and reconciled to disgrace. In the course of one day, we have learnt the tidings of the rout and dispersion of mighty armies, of the abject humiliation and impending ruin of the greatest powers; in one word, of events which seem to us to be little less than a prelude to the total destruction of the established system of Europe.

It was natural and reasonable that the Imperial court should consider Italy as the quarter in which alone the French could be vulnerable. An army scattered over an extensive country, and occupied in constraining a restless and mutinous people, seemed likely to present many favourable points of attack. Towards Italy, therefore, the efforts of Austria appear to have been directed. It was even thought politic to weaken the army of the archduke for the purpose of reinforcing Wurmsfer, and a large body of men were detached for that object. By these extraordinary exertions general Wurmsfer found himself at the head of a gallant and well-disciplined army of 60,000 men; and that excellent officer seems to have thought himself in a condition to raise the siege of Mantua, and perhaps to effect the recovery of Lombardy. His first successes correspond with the hopes that had been formed from so formidable a force. On the 29th ult. he drove the French from the post of Salo, situated on the west bank of the Lago di Garda, and shortly after expelled them from Bresscia, the capital of Bresciano.

These successes, however, proved as short-lived as they were trivial. The army of Buonaparte had been reinforced by 25,000 men from La Vendee; that unfortunately celebrated country, through which the combined powers so long hoped to give a mortal wound to the French republic, but which has in fact proved the grave of the royalists, and the best nursery of republican soldiers. He withdrew his troops from Verona, and concentrating his whole force he marched without delay against Wurmsfer. The dates and particulars of the astonishing events which followed, are so imperfect, that we can only give a very general sketch of them. It appears, however, that Buonaparte attacked the Austrians at Lonado and Salo; and at the first of these places made six hundred prisoners, and killed two thousand men. On the 3d inst. he again attacked them in the whole extent of their line, at Lonado, Castiglione, and Montechiaro, with such success, as to have killed and wounded 2000, taken thirty field pieces, and made six thousand prisoners, among whom were two general officers.

What the particulars of the events which succeeded this great victory were, we have not yet learnt; but such has been their astonishing and awful result, that in five days (probably from the first to the sixth instant,) twelve thousand Austrians have been made prisoners, six thousand have been killed, seventy pieces of cannon taken, and their whole army completely routed and dispersed. In this short period has been annihilated a numerous, brave, and disciplined army, commanded by one of the most celebrated generals of the age; for the formation of which such extraordinary efforts and sacrifices were made; which was the sole bulwark of Germany on the Italian frontier, and in which were deposited the last faint hopes of the court of Vienna.

At a calmer moment we might express our astonishment at these stupendous, and almost incredible events, and pay a due tribute of admiration to the skill and valour which have wrought such prodigies; but as so-

onishment and admiration are lost in feelings of a more awful kind, in the relation of victories, which threaten nothing less than the universal subjugation of Europe. The French are now the undisputed masters of Italy, from the Alps to the Straits of Messina; and whether they parcel it into dependant republics, or still, for a while suffer its wretched princes, trembling in their palaces, to retain a precarious and nominal authority—it is in truth and substance a province of France.

If we turn our eyes towards Germany, the prospect appears, if possible, still more clouded and gloomy. The diet of the empire, assembled at Ratisbon, on the 30th ult. in the last agony of dismay and consternation, passed a decree (which may, perhaps, be one of the last acts of power they will ever exercise!) for imploring the French to grant a peace to the Germanic Body. They accuse the emperor of having protracted hostilities; and his minister recriminated, by ascribing all the calamities of the war to their inactivity and pusillanimity; accusations which may bear in part be true.—But on what a miserable and desperate footing they must negotiate, may be judged from the circumstance, that they found it necessary to send a deputation of their own number to the French generals, supplicating them to grant protection to their persons and archives! and that they have been compelled to employ the mediation of the king of Prussia for the same humiliating object. It is a gross abuse of language, to dignify by the name of negotiation the ignominious terms which a conqueror may choose to dictate to those who are reduced to implore that protection.

Thus, in this proud assembly, the representative of the greatest number of princes and states that were ever united in a political association, obliged to depend for its personal safety upon the precarious mercy and accidental moderation of those who may command the armies of France. This wretched humiliation is not alone deserving of notice as an awful and memorable example of the vicissitude of human affairs; he must be a shallow politician, indeed, who does not perceive that such instances of humiliation are likely to be productive of the most terrible consequences. A victory over the dignity of the established governments of Europe is as important to the French democracy, as a victory over their armies. The one diffuses their opinions as much as the other extends their territories. When the people of every country see all that has been the object of their veneration for so many ages degraded and laid prostrate in the dust; their reverence will be changed into contempt; all the sentiments which produce obedience to government will be extinguished; and the basis of political society loosened and dissolved. While the fabric of the Germanic constitution, with all its faults, has been ever justly accounted one of the chief bulwarks of the established system of Europe, its rapidly tumbling to pieces, the situation of the emperor appears to be equally mortifying and unfortunate. Even the gallant spirit of Hungarian loyalty, which has often, in the most desperate moments, sustained the tottering fortunes of the house of Austria, has on this occasion forsaken him. Hungary has been deaf to the voice of its distressed sovereign, which in other times has produced such powerful effects on that martial people.

We have received authentic intelligence that general Kleber has entered Ratisbon; but the particulars of his negotiation, (for so it will still be ridiculously called) with the captive diet, have not reached us. We have also reason to believe, that some wretched terms of capitulation, which by the courtesy of Europe, may be called a treaty of peace, have by this been granted by the French to the emperor at Munich. The term negotiation may be applied to such transactions, but negotiation implies at least some equality. There is no negotiation between a conqueror and a suppliant.

Whether the victorious republicans will condescend to listen to the supplications of Mr. Pitt, and vouchsafe to include him in the conditions which they may grant to the governments of Europe on their surrender, we know not; and amidst the struggling sentiments of shame, sorrow, terror and indignation, which at this moment fill our minds, we had almost said we cared not.

The probability seems rather against a peace with Great-Britain. The emperor is too much overwhelmed by his own calamities and dangers, and too urgently pressed by the necessity of an immediate accommodation, to be solicitous about the interests of an ally, whose destructive friendship has been the source of all his misfortunes; and in the race of suppliant ambassadors to Paris, Mr. Hammond seems likely to be out-run.

The detestation of the republicans, against a minister whose incendiary intrigues they believe to have stirred up all their foreign and domestic enemies, is still unexhausted; and they can have little inducement to grant terms, however humiliating, to a power whom they may injure materially, and which can scarcely, in any important interest, injure them.

We are perfectly sensible that some part of the language may be called inconsistent with that earnest and uniform desire of peace, which we have expressed since the commencement of this unfortunate contest; but there will not be the slightest real inconsistency in the conduct of the warmest enemies of the war, if they reprobate with equal warmth such conditions of peace as Mr. Pitt is likely to obtain. The contrary conduct would in fact be grossly inconsistent. His ignominious peace will be the natural fruit of his abominable war. No man can detest the one, without abhorring the other.—The articles of peace will it is to be supposed, be the best commentary on the nature of the war; its principles and effects, will be there written in characters that cannot be mistaken. Reasoning will then be superseded, coarsely glanced, and folly herself