

appoint an agent for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, to the best of his skill and judgment, the certificate of which oath shall be annexed to, or endorsed on, the said bond.

XXVI. *And be it enacted*, That if the said agent shall not accept his appointment, or if after acceptance he shall not give bond and take the oath aforesaid before the first day of February next, or shall die, the governor and council are hereby authorized and requested to appoint a fit and proper person in his place, who shall have and execute all the authorities and powers vested in the said William Marbury by this act, such person first giving security and taking the oath aforesaid.

Notice to State Debtors.

NO process hath issued against the delinquent state debtors for their instalments due on the first of December last, nor will any be directed till after the 15th of February next. The agent therefore expects (to prevent trouble and expence) they will come forward and discharge their debts by that time.

WILLIAM MARBURY, Agent.

STUTTGARD, October 5.

ON the 15th of September, general Frohlich compelled the French to abandon their position near Zeil, and retreat to Wurtzach. The Austrians, on this occasion, made a very considerable booty. The loss of every kind which the French have suffered along the Lake of Constance from the Austrians and the armed peasants, especially in carriages and baggage, is extremely great.

BREMEN, October 7.

The archduke was at Mannheim on the 28th, and proposed to quit that fortress the following day. His royal highness has two Irish gentlemen among his aide-camps, colonel O'Brady, and lieutenant-colonel count Phinkett, son of the late general and governor of Antwerp.

It is said that Buonaparte has experienced a total defeat in Italy—but it is very much to be questioned, whether general Wurmsler has as yet ventured to march out of Mantua. A letter, however, from Augsburg, now on my table, states unequivocally, that on the 12th ult. before Mantua, the French were beaten with considerable loss, had two generals killed, and that general Massena, though dangerously wounded, fell back towards Verona and Bassano. Buonaparte, it is farther stated, threw himself into the small fortresses of Sanquinetto; where he was soon after surrounded, and finally taken prisoner by the Austrians, who escorted him to Mantua? This letter bears the date of 29th September.

Oct. 11. Letters from Brixen of the 25th ult. and from Inspruck, of the 26th, speak, but not explicitly, of some recent advantages, obtained by general Wurmsler's army, in Italy.—The Dutch post, just arrived here, is totally silent as to Buonaparte, which renders it extremely probable that what I sent you in my last, as merely a report, is now founded upon facts; it is pretty well known, that those who in Holland drag the reins of the state in the mite, are not very expeditious when there is question of announcing the non-success of the French troops.

General Hotze has certainly passed the Rhine, near Mannheim, with an army of from ten to twelve thousand men; the object of his march is not even guessed at; it may be to form a diversion, or it may prove to have been undertaken through views more serious.

The Tete de Pont, of Neuwied, was stormed and carried the 11th instant, at three o'clock in the morning, and the whole of the enemy who defended it were made prisoners of war. I cannot enter into a circumstantial detail of that brilliant affair, in which the Austrian heroes, as usual, performed miracles of bravery.

On the Upper Rhine every thing goes on to admiration. After the action at Neustadt and Ingoldstadt, Moreau fell back, by way of Berghausen and Brebach, towards Marienzelle, where the Imperial cavalry surprised and drove him towards the Lech, after having taken from him 16 pieces of cannon, 15 ammunition waggons, and 46 baggage waggons. Moreau halted at Erling and Oberdorf, to make head against the Austrians; but the Imperial generals Frohlich, Wolf, and Lobkowitz, fell upon him with such impetuosity, that after an action which lasted two and twenty hours, the French army was completely routed; 25,000 lay dead on the field of battle. It is in consequence of that battle, so disastrous to the enemy, Moreau attempted to make his appearance in Franconia. So that you see, what I usually transmit to you as a report, I have soon after the satisfaction of assuring you of beyond a doubt. I hope I shall soon inform you that the French have thought proper to evacuate Dusseldorf!

STRASBOURG, 17 Vendemiaire.

The Austrians still continue their incursions on the left bank of the Rhine. The large body of the enemy who have marched towards Germersheim, have forced the country people in the environs of Herlheim and of all the neighbouring townships to destroy the intrenchments which the French had established there before. A detachment of 130 horse went afterwards to Lauterbourg with a design to take possession of two considerable magazines of grain, and hay. They had already begun to force the inhabitants to supply them with horses and waggons to carry off their booty, when the troops who had marched from here to meet them arrived at Lauterbourg, and drove them from thence. The hay remained whole; but the enemy carried off three hundred quintals of corn. They did

not lay the town under contribution; but contented themselves with exacting a certain quantity of brandy for each of them. This party was commanded by a man who spoke the French language very well, and who is said to be an emigrant from Mentz. Last night, another strong detachment from the enemy appeared in the neighbourhood of Wanzleben; but they took to flight the moment they discovered the republicans marching towards them.

The municipal administrators of Lauterbourg and Wissemburg, took to flight at the approach of the enemy, and are safely arrived in this town; but the carriage which was transporting the papers of the justice of the peace of Wissemburg, though escorted by the gendarmes, was plundered of assignats and mandats by the peasants, between Wissemburg and Sultz.

P. S. We at this moment have received the most pleasing intelligence from the army of Moreau. On the 10th and 11th, the enemy have been most completely beaten. It was on general Latour the principal advantage was obtained. The first messenger who was dispatched with that important news, was assassinated on his way, which is the cause that it did not reach us sooner.

HAVRE-DE-GRACE, Vendemiaire 16.

By a letter from the commissary of the French government, in England, we learn, that both governments have at last agreed to the articles relating to a general exchange of prisoners on both sides, which is to take place very shortly.

SALEM, December 28.

A few days since, Mr. James Burnes, a native and inhabitant of this town, returned home from the West-Indies; having fortunately escaped from the English. He was seized by the Majestic English man of war, from on board the Africa of New-York, of which he was second mate; and was dragged about from island to island in the English service for more than seven months—He was forced at the point of the sword into several bloody battles, and made to fight against the French; and because of his unwillingness to act in the English service; he suffered from them the most shocking cruelties; at one time he lay 10 days in irons, and would have been starved to death, had it not been for the assistance of a woman that was on board the ship. Once before he attempted to escape, in company with another American; and swam to a vessel belonging to the United States; but the matter would not let them come on board, and, returning, his companion was lost, he supposed by a shark.

He brings melancholy and most painful accounts of the sufferings of the Americans pressed into the English service; and of their perishing by the cruelties exercised upon them, by the sickles, and in battles, and for attempting to escape from a bondage and slavery more dreadful than the iron furnace of Egypt. Mr. Burnes has a family in this town, and has returned with the loss of all his little property, and from his appearance, with the loss of a good constitution, and of good health for ever.

BOSTON, December 24.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

Yesterday arrived the Snow Pacific Trader, captain Barnes, from Liverpool, via Vineyard, 51 days.

By this arrival we have received London papers to October 26; but they contain no intelligence of moment. The accounts of military operations are no later than those some time since received from Paris; They are, however, of a very different cast—so different, that it is impossible to reconcile them. The French army of the Lower Rhine, under general Bournonville, remained between the Sieg and Lahn; while that under general Moreau continued in the vicinity of Buchach, in Suabia, though some accounts state, that his van-guard had arrived at Strasburg.—The archduke Charles was advancing by the Rhine towards Suabia, and the Austrian divisions in that circle formed a line of posts from the Lake of Constance, to the vicinity of Fort du Kehl. The capture of general Buonaparte is frequently mentioned in these papers; but without the least authority. The prospect of peace does not appear to brighten. Lord Malmesbury had arrived at Paris, but there were no accounts of his reception. The British parliament appear to contemplate another campaign, by the votes of credit they pass, the provisions they have made for the support of 295,177 men, and the grant of 360,000l. for the recruiting service of 1797. The number of Austrians in Mantua, is said to be 30,000, but many of them sick; and general Buonaparte was drawing thither all the reinforcements he could muster in Piedmont. The naval equipments in England were not in the least relaxed. The fleet chased by the Spaniards into Gibraltar; it appears was admiral Mahon's, who lost some transports.

Dec. 29. Tuesday evening arrived here, captain Crowell, in a ship from Amsterdam, in 60 days passage. Captain Crowell informs, that in coming out of the Texel he met a large English fleet, with troops on board, and was informed they were destined for the Texel, to take a Dutch fleet lying there; he likewise informs, that previous to his sailing, a report was prevalent, that the French had gained a signal victory over the Austrians, Captain Crowell brought no papers—the above is verbally reported by him.

NEW-YORK, December 30.

We learn, that the vessels which have arrived these few days past, give accounts that many vessels are on the coast, endeavouring to make port, but driven off by contrary winds, some of them in real distress for want of provisions or water; and the people's limbs

frozen. It not possible for the citizens to send out vessels for the relief of such as are near this port?—

[Minerva]

December 31.

To mate of vessels, mates, and seamen—general. The printers of the city of New-York, having received credible information, that a great number of vessels again great distress on the coast, have provided the brig Dan, Joshua Sanford, master, to give immediate assistance to the sufferers, and do hereby invite the masters, mates and seamen, to embark in so laudable an enterprise—Those who are disposed to undertake the cause of humanity, will please to give in their names at the counting room of Ebenezer Stevens, who is authorized to make arrangements for their compensation.

Extract of a letter from Boston, dated December 22, 1796.

"Within day or two past, it has been discovered, that there are a great many forged 50 and 5 dollar bills of the United States bank, in circulation. They are exceedingly well executed. This is written to caution you against remitting me any of either of those denominations; as you cannot pass them here at any rate."

January 5.

We have been favoured with Hamburg papers, received yesterday, by the ship Minerva, to the 7th Nov. The difficulty of obtaining immediate translations, and the lateness of the hour at which the papers were received, prevent our detailing the articles they contain for this day's Advertiser. They will be furnished to-morrow.

On a cursory view, however, we have noted the following:

A letter of general Moreau, dated October 5.

After describing long marches, says:

"Thus an army, of which the enemy boasted he would certainly make prisoners, now threatens him with an attack, and returns to cover the frontiers, after a march of 100 leagues, without the least loss, during which they took from the enemy 18 pieces of cannon, 2 pair of colours, and nearly 7000 prisoners, amongst which there are 80 officers."

Frankfort, October 22.

Under this date, a confirmation is given, that general Moreau on his retreat, attacked the Imperial general Petrasch, and repulsed him with the loss of more than 1500 to 2000 men, and that he had been considerably reinforced.

Vienna, October 19.

Under this date, mention is made of the arrival of a messenger from the French directly, with dispatches to that court. The contents are not stated—but they are particular in describing the duels, &c. of the messenger—that he had been taken ill after his arrival—and that in consequence of which, considerable attention was paid to him.—[This looks pacific.]

An article, dated Leipzig, October 22, says—"Rumours of a peace between the emperor and the French republic, grow daily stronger—and upon good grounds it is supposed that the cabinet of Berlin is very instrumental in the business."

The armistice between the Pope and the French republic was about being broken by the former. He had addressed letters to the different powers of Europe on the subject.—The cause is not stated, but several articles from different parts of Italy confirm the expectation of an immediate commencement of hostilities between the Papal troops and those of the republic.

ALBANY, December 19.

PHENOMENON.

Extract of a letter received by a gentleman of this city, from his friend in Bath, in the county of Steuben, dated November 25, 1796.

"This day fortnight it was so very dark that they were obliged to light a candle to dine by at about half past one P. M.—During the afternoon the darkness continued; and having occasion to write, I found the aid of a candle indispensably necessary."

Many of our readers will recollect, that a phenomenon similar to the above, occurred in this country, in May, of the year 1795, when in different parts of the continent, dinner could not be served at the usual hour without candle light, and the darkness of the succeeding night was beyond all description. The extent of this darkness was extraordinary. It was observed as far east as Falmouth. To the eastward it reached to the further part of Connecticut, and to Albany. To the southward it was observed along the sea coasts; and to the north as far as the American settlements extend. A vessel at sea found herself enclosed for a while in a cloud of this darkness, and as she failed, passed instantly from the verge of it into a clear light.

This phenomenon is thus accounted for:—In the back countries, particularly in the western parts of New-Hampshire and Massachusetts; and in Vermont, in clearing the new lands, uncommonly large fires had been kept up to the extent of many score miles round the frontiers. The weather being clear, the air weighty, and wind small and variable for several days; the smoke, instead of dispersing, rose and constantly collected in the air; till the atmosphere was loaded with such an uncommon quantity of it, as proved, in combination with other vapours, the parent of the preceding darkness.

The snow here is about 6 inches on a level, and yet falling; the weather fine for the season—but our rivers, springs, and ponds, are uncommonly low considering the winter is commencing in this serious manner.

See Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, vol. 1. p. 257.—Boston, printed 1795.