

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, F E B R U A R Y 23, 1797.

BRUSSELS, November 24.

THE Austrian corps commanded by general Neu, has again advanced from its entrenched position before Metz, and taken post on the banks of the Seltz. The enemy have pushed their advanced posts even across that river, whilst the French confined themselves to concentrate their force within the line, which extends from Bingen to Kaiserlautern. This movement of the Austrians has brought on several very smart engagements between the light troops of both parties, wherein the French and Imperialists have alternately proved victorious. In one of these affairs the republican general Klein surprised the whole chain of the enemy's advanced posts, put them completely to the rout, took a great number of men and horses, and forced the Austrians to recross the Seltz in the utmost disorder. After this expedition the French returned their former position.

From the Lower Rhine we learn, that on the first of this month (21st of November) a very brisk action likewise took place on the Banks of the Sieg. The republicans attacked the advanced posts of the Austrians, who defended themselves in so vigorous a manner, that the former were obliged to fall back.

The army of the North, encamped in the front of Mulheim, is under marching orders.

STRASBURG, November 23.

The blood still runs in torrents on the banks of the Rhine. It is now midnight. I finish my letter to the sound of cannon which are now firing at Kehl with such force as to shake every window in Strasburg. The engagement has lasted since 7 o'clock this evening. It is the first time that we have had a night affair so violent as this appears to be.

PARIS, November 23.

The messenger sent to London by lord Malmesbury is returned, and the negotiations are resumed. They have at last made a step forward; for after childishly refusing to explain himself on the principle of compensation, set forth by lord Malmesbury, our learned minister assumes in the most positive manner, enlightened, no doubt, by a fortnight's study, and also a little by the lessons of the writer, who proved to him that there was no impropriety in acknowledging this principle; and that it was indeed pledging ourselves to very little; because we reserved still the full power of shewing ourselves as difficult as we pleased respecting the nature and the extent of the exchanges and proportionate compensations. At least the first difficulty of formality has been done away, which is certainly something, as the official diplomatic notes will shew.

If our plenipotentiary, instead of his last insignificant answer, had returned that which he now gives, and formerly admitted, as he now does, the principle of compensation, he would have accelerated the issue of the negotiation by a fortnight, and would have not appeared to be a man who quibbles and recedes, and pretends to have already said what in fact he had not said. We might go on and ask of him a little less dryness and asperity of language; but his diplomatic education cannot be perfect all at once.

By lord Malmesbury's answer, which we do not suppose he will send to his cabinet by a courier, as the question addressed by the Directory must have been foreseen, we shall see, whether he will also make use of more frankness in his overtures; whether he will relinquish his perplexing and dictating course, with men who despise and cannot patiently bear the delay of formalities.

That of the two governments which, without losing itself in the labyrinth of formalities, shall announce with precision and moderation, the principal conditions upon which it wishes to negotiate, will prove the sincerity of its pacific intentions, conciliate the general opinion, and make it a terrible weapon against its enemy. It would be worthy of the Directory to let this great and fine example of loyalty and good faith.

LONDON, December 2.

Some letters from Lisbon, delivered out on Saturday, announce the preparations making in Portugal by sea and land, as war they find is not to be averted. Several men of war are fitting in the Tagus; and camps are about forming on the frontiers, which are to amount to 60,000 men. The prince of Brazil, it was said, takes the field with the troops.

The most important article of intelligence which the Paris Journals bring us, is the following correspondence between lord Malmesbury and Mr. de La Croix, in which the public will see that the principle of compensation is so expressly insisted on as the basis of negotiation, is formally and literally agreed to by the French, as it was before in spirit and in fact. We do not intend the recollection of our opinions on this subject, and we should not now recal the interposition, which we put on the former concession of the

point made by the French minister, if it were not to shew the futility of the investives that were thrown out upon us by some of our contemporaries on account of our reading. Having admitted the principle, the two countries are now fairly to issue upon terms; and if we may give credit to the information of the best political circles, Mr. Ellis will speedily return to Paris with the precise concessions to be offered and demanded by England. [Mon. Chron.]

NOTE

From lord Malmesbury to the minister for foreign affairs.

The court of London having been informed of what passed after the receipt of the last memorial delivered, by their order, to the minister for foreign affairs, and that there is not any thing whatever to be added to the answer made by the undersigned to the two questions which the Directory thought proper to address to them.

They wait then, with the greatest interest for an explanation of the sentiments of the Directory, with regard to the principle proposed, on their part, as the basis of the negotiation, and the adoption of which appeared to the best means of accelerating the progress of a discussion so important to the happiness of so many nations.

The undersigned has, in consequence received orders to renew the demand of a frank and precise answer on this subject, in order that his court may know, with certainty, whether the Directory accept the said proposition; whether they desire to make any change or modifications whatever in it; or lastly, whether they will propose any other principle that may promote the same end.

(Signed)

MALMESBURY.

Paris, November 25, 1796.

ANSWER

Of the minister for foreign affairs to lord Malmesbury's note.

In answer to the note delivered yesterday, November 25 (old style) by lord Malmesbury, the undersigned minister for foreign affairs, is instructed, by the Executive Directory, to observe, that the answers made on the 5th and 22d of last Brumaire, contained an acknowledgment of the principle of compensation, and that in order to remove every pretext for farther discussion on that point, the undersigned, in the name of the Executive Directory, now makes a formal and positive declaration of such acknowledgment. In consequence lord Malmesbury is again invited to give a speedy and categorical answer to the proposition made to him on the 22d of last Brumaire, and which were conceived in these terms: "The undersigned is instructed by the Executive Directory, to invite you to point out with all possible expedition, and expressly, the objects of reciprocal compensation which you have to propose."

(Signed)

CH. DELACROIX.

7 Frimaire (Nov. 27) 5th year.

ANSWER

Of lord Malmesbury to the note of the minister of foreign affairs, dated the 7th Frimaire, Nov. 27.

The undersigned minister plenipotentiary of his Britannic majesty, in answer to the note dated this morning, and which has been transmitted to him on the part of the minister of foreign affairs, hastens to assure him that he will not lose a moment in communicating it to his court, from which he must still expect ulterior orders, before he can explain himself with respect to the important matter which it contains.

(Signed)

MALMESBURY.

Paris, November 27.

Dec. 10. The marquis of Bute arrived in town on Wednesday evening from the continent, and yesterday he had an interview with the secretary of state for the foreign department.

Accounts have been received in town from the Mediterranean, by the Audacious of 74 guns, captain Gould, which state that the Spanish fleet having put to sea, had met with a violent gale of wind, in which the *San Trinidad* had run down—a large frigate, and that the fleet had been dispersed—five sail had put into Minorca, and three into Carthagen, distressed, and the rest of the fleet remained unaccounted for.

By the last arrival from Paris we are given to understand that the future progress of the negotiation cannot be made so public as the previous steps have been. It is said that lord Malmesbury intimated to Mr. de La Croix,

"That he had assurances of being authorized to propose specific terms of concession; but that his Britannic majesty did not think that the object of the negotiation was likely to be promoted by the habit of publishing the official communications of both sides, thereby exciting the passions of the public on the topics in discussion before they were maturely weighed. It was his desire, therefore, to suggest the prudence of abstaining from this practice in this diplomacy, and to recommend that the specific terms of concession on both sides should be contested until the propositions

had undergone, at least, a fair and uninfluenced discussion."

The answer of the Directory to the foregoing suggestion is stated to have been to the following effect:

"That they had chosen the course of public discussion, that all the world might be made parties to the negotiation, and judge between the two governments—but if it was the desire and taste of the English court to prefer a close deliberation, they could have no objections."

INVASION OF IRELAND.

Extract of a letter from Dublin, December 1.

"Yesterday our city experienced a scene of confusion that I can scarcely describe.

"At eight o'clock in the morning, an express arrived from the mayor of Cork, stating, that several sail of French line of battle ships, conveying a thousand flat bottomed boats, with one hundred and fifty thousand men, were plainly discernible, standing to us for the shore, and making preparations for landing."

"The lord lieutenant immediately sent for the commander in chief, who summoned a council of war, at which all the staff officers were present; and while they were deliberating what to do, the report circulated like wild fire through every part of the metropolis; and by one o'clock it was asserted on Change, that 400,000 men had made good their landing, murdered all the men in Crookhaven, ravished the women, and then set fire to the town, which was soon reduced to ashes; and that they afterwards marched for Cork, with intent to put all the men to death there, to plunder that city, and reduce it to a heap of ruins."

"The privy council was assembled in the great council chamber; the general officers in another part of the castle. All the inhabitants of the city and suburbs who had red coats put them on. Fierce cocked hats, cockades, swords and firelocks were to be found in every street; and to say the truth, there seemed to be the appearance of alacrity; and though much confusion was to be found, no dismay was visible.

"Expresses were immediately dispatched to order the people to drive all their cattle from the coast, into the interior, and to remove their valuables; and a messenger was sent to England with this alarming intelligence.

"At two o'clock rumour annihilated Cork, Waterford, and Kinsale, and announced the enemy on his march to Dublin, laying waste to every town and village through which he travelled, and that the *Peep of Day boys* had joined him and were his guides.

"At four o'clock another express arrived from the mayor of Cork, with the agreeable intelligence that the seventy sail of French line of battle ships, with one thousand flat bottomed boats, and an hundred and fifty thousand men, turned out to be the homeward bound East-India fleet, on their way to Plymouth! and that the burning down Crookhaven was nothing more than a chimney on fire!

"The council broke up—the citizens took off their scarlet coats, the guns and swords were laid up, and the heads of the university exclaimed, *Parturient montes, nascitur ridiculus mus.*

Dec. 12. Mr. Ellis, we understand, sets off this morning on his return to Paris; he carried with him, it is said, the instructions to lord Malmesbury, respecting the terms of compensation to be presented to the Executive Directory; these instructions were finally settled at a cabinet council, held on Saturday.

Admiral Vanderput has taken two Spanish ships from the Havana, richly laden. One of them arrived off Portsmouth on Friday evening.

Dec. 13. The Olive Branch, an American vessel which was taken and carried into Portsmouth, a few days ago by the Audacious man of war, on examination, appears to have 37 thousand stand of arms instead of 20 thousand as first stated, and above 25 pieces of artillery, mostly brass, among which latter are some of the park artillery lost by the duke of York before Dunkirk.

Dec. 15. This day we received the French Journals to the 12th instant, the following are the leading particulars—

Loquet, in his paper of the 11th, says, a letter from Milan announces, that the flag of distress is flying on the ramparts of Mantua. He adds, that news which appears to be more certain, is, that Kleber, with 30,000 men, has passed the Rhine at Oppenheim, to annoy the operations of the archduke at Kehl.

Letters from Strasburg announce, that the bridge of Kehl has been destroyed; which make it more likely that the place will fall into the hands of the Austrians.

A letter from Newwied states; that the archduke has refused an armistice requested by Moreau.

The English have quitted the Isle of Elbe, but have left a convoy there. It is thought, they are about to return thither in considerable force.

The British fleet still remains in the Road, it has 24 thousand troops on board.