

MARYLAND GAZETTE

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1797.

PARIS, December 8.

It is said that the court of Vienna does not seem very anxious to accept the general armistice which Clarke is gone to propose in the name of the Executive Directory.

Letters from Vienna, dated November 14, state, that according to dispatches received in that city, the Directory persist in the plan of treating separately with Austria, and would even on that condition agree to carry on the negotiations at Vienna.

It is said, that the Directory has refused to receive Mr. Pinckney, the American ambassador, in consequence of the treaty concluded between England and America.

Letters from Lisbon advise, that a Spanish army 70,000 strong, is on its march to Portugal.

LONDON, December 19.

Sir Edward Pelew has looked into Brest harbour, where he counted 25 sail of men of war, 17 of which were of the line, apparently ready, and which seemed to be intended immediately for sea.

Five of the six Hamburg mails that were due are at length arrived. They bring a very satisfactory report of the first successes obtained by general Alvinz in Italy.

Buonaparte, it is said, had been so straitened for reinforcements, that it was proposed by the Directory to claim the Spanish troops stipulated for in the treaty for immediate service in Italy; but as this measure would defeat the intended invasion of Portugal, it was wived.

At Vienna, it was generally understood, that peace entirely depended upon the British cabinet, the French negotiator having been sent back the whole resources of the empire were to be employed in prosecuting the war with unprecedented vigour, especially in Italy, in case of the ultimate failure of the negotiation, in which the court of Russia had taken a new and decided part.

Yesterday morning advices were received at the admiralty from Portsmouth, stating that the York man of war and Burrig frigate, with the fleet under convoy for the West-Indies, sailed on Saturday morning with a fair wind, as also the Weymouth and Commodore's men of war, with troops for the West-Indies.

The accounts from Ireland, by the mail of Saturday were of the most pleasing nature. Tranquillity is generally established in the North, and the people are every where prepared to repel an invasion, should the enemy hazard so desperate an enterprise.

Friday the Paris papers were received up to the 14th inst. The advices and from the extracts we have given our readers will see, that they contain no news of much importance.

Pinckney is about to resume the command of the army of the Sambre and Meuse.

As to the present state of the negotiation the reports are extremely vague. While some assert that lord Malmesbury has been authorized by the emperor to treat in his name for the preliminaries of peace, others contend that his majesty intends to send a negotiator of his own to Paris, which we believe is the fact. It is said that the negotiation will suffer delay from the intervention of Russia, and even be suspended till the arrival of a Russian minister. Be this as it may, (say Belles) the hopes of a peace have not vanished, the Austrian and English governments have advanced so far to proceed. But after the preliminaries shall have been signed, it will be indispensably necessary to hold a congress, without which it would be impossible to form a new system of the political balance of

Europe, at the close of a war which has deranged so many interests, altered the existence of so many states, and changed the connexions of so many powers with one another.

All the commercial bodies of France are about to present an address against the law which prohibits the importation of English goods.

BOSTON, March 8.

PROSPECT OF PEACE DISSIPATED.

We have seen letters from houses of the highest respectability in Rotterdam, under the dates of Dec. 27th, 1796, and Jan. 1. 1797, informing, "That lord Malmesbury, had left Paris, and that the prospect of peace had vanished."—The above letters were received by capt. Giles, who arrived at Marblehead, on Friday last, in 58 days, from Rotterdam.

Various reports emanated from this arrival:—One was, that Malmesbury was ordered to quit Paris in 48 hours; and another, that the American envoy was also ordered to retire in the same period.—This latter is certainly unfounded; for,

The friendly reception of Mr. Pinckney at Paris, may be inferred from the silence of the Rotterdam letters on the subject—Had he been refused, the merchants trading to America would have deemed the event highly interesting: and would have noticed it. The letters are to Jan. 5.

NEW-YORK, March 14.

The snow Pallas, arrived yesterday, brings Dublin papers to the 20th December. We insert the following paragraph, which proves the report of the French having arrived in Bantry Bay to be ill founded. The news was brought from Liverpool to the United States, and it is only reasonable to suppose that the report of the French being off the coast was magnified into their actually having landed ere it reached Liverpool.

Dublin, December 20.

"Wednesday evening and Thursday morning there was an idle rumour in circulation at Cork of the French fleet being off Bantry Bay—and, of course, various were the opinions on the subject; but the mystery has since been cleared up by letters received in town since that time, from Cork, which mention that it was the homeward bound Oporto and Lisbon fleets, and through which the Penguin sloop of war, captain Pulling, has passed, on his way into port."

The following articles appear under Dublin Head, of December 15 and 17.

In consequence of 23 French officers, who were prisoners of war upon their parole, at Dunmanway, in the county of Cork, having absconded, and broke their parole, government have offered a reward of twenty pounds for the apprehension of each of them.

The Olive Branch, which was lately captured by the Audacious, with a cargo of small arms, brass ordnance, and camp equipage, and brought into Portsmouth, was some time ago freighted from the north of Ireland, at a time that a large quantity of specie was sent from the metropolis, by certain known agents of the Worthies in that quarter.

The volunteer corps throughout the kingdom already consist of twenty-seven thousand men in uniform.

IMPORTANT.

It is said that private letters have arrived in town, which wholly contradict the intelligence that the Executive Directory had refused to receive Mr. Pinckney. Those letters are reported to have come from Rotterdam. With pleasure we announce this information to the public.

"What do the French mean? They can't certainly mean to go to war with us." Such is the language we see in some of our papers.

This reminds us of a contest between an eastern man, at Burling slip, some time ago, and a citizen of New-York. A difference arose, and the citizen struck the New-England man; who very coolly replied, "what do you mean? Are you in earnest? You don't mean to strike me, do you?" The man made him no answer, but gave him another blow, and knocked him down. The New-England man rose up; Why a frown, you mean to pick a quarrel, I believe," and instantly laid him on the ground, and gave him as handsome a flogging as ever he had in his life.

PHILADELPHIA, March 11.

To the EDITOR of the UNITED STATES GAZETTE. DEPARTMENT of STATE. Philadelphia, March 9, 1797.

I enclose the copy of a letter which I received the 3d instant, from the late president of the United States. The letter itself will satisfy you of the propriety of its being published. The original, as directed, is deposited in this office.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, TIMOTHY PICKERING.

Philadelphia, March 3, 1797.

DEAR SIR,

At the conclusion of my public employments, I have thought it expedient to notice the publication of certain forged letters, which first appeared in the year 1777, and were obtruded upon the public as mine. They are said by the editor to have been found in a small portmanteau which I had left in the care of my mulatto servant, named Billy, who, it is pretended, was taken prisoner at Fort Lee in 1776.

The period when these letters were first printed, will be recollected, and what were the impressions they were intended to produce on the public mind. It was then supposed to be of some consequence to strike at the integrity of the motives of the American commander in chief, and to paint his inclinations at variance with his professions and his duty. Another crisis in the affairs of America having occurred, the same weapon has been resorted to, to wound my character and deceive the people.

The letters in question have the dates, addresses, and signatures here following:

- New-York, June 12th, 1776. To Mr. Lund Washington, at Mount Vernon, Fairfax county, Virginia. "G. W."
To John Parke Custis, Esq; at the hon. Benedict Calvert's Esq; Mount Airy, Maryland. "June 18th, 1776." "Geo. Washington."
New-York, July 8th, 1776. To Mr. Lund Washington, at Mount Vernon, Fairfax county, Virginia. "G. W."
New-York, July 16th, 1776. To Mr. Lund Washington, &c. "G. W."
New-York, July 15th, 1776. To Mr. Lund Washington, &c. "G. W."
New-York, July 22d, 1776. To Mr. Lund Washington, &c. "G. W."
June 24th, 1776. To Mrs. Washington. "G. W."

At the time when these letters first appeared it was notorious to the army immediately under my command, and particularly to the gentlemen attached to my person, that my mulatto man Billy had never been one moment in the power of the enemy. It is also a fact that no part of my baggage or any of my attendants were captured during the whole course of the war. These well known facts made it unnecessary, during the war, to call the public attention to the forgery, by any express declaration of mine; and a firm reliance on my fellow-citizens and the abundant proofs they gave of their confidence in me, rendered it alike unnecessary to take any formal notice of the revival of the imposition during my civil administration. But as I cannot know how soon a more serious event may succeed to that which will this day take place, I have thought it a duty that I owe to myself, to my country, and to truth, now to detail the circumstances above recited, and to add my solemn declaration, that the letters herein described are a base forgery, and that I never saw or heard of them, until they appeared in print.

The present letter I commit to your care, and desire it may be deposited in the office of the department of state, as a testimony of the truth to the present generation and to posterity.

Accept, I pray you, the sincere esteem and affectionate regard of,

Dear Sir,

Your obedient;

Go. WASHINGTON.

TIMOTHY PICKERING, Secretary of State.

March 13.

The following is the concluding part of a letter, which has appeared in the New York papers; the singularity and confidence of the address to citizen Adee, gives it an aspect too serious to suffer an apprehension of party imputations to prevail on us to withhold it. We subjoin an article which appeared in consequence of the alarming address:

"It is rumoured, that the Spaniards either have, or are to cede to France, Louisiana and the Floridas.—The policy of the French in this is too manifest to require discussion.—It is also reported, that the French have it in contemplation to establish a republic in Louisiana; and that it is a part of this plan, to affiliate and incorporate with it, the people of the Western Territory, by dismembering the United States. This would be a desirable object with them, is probable from the nature of things—but that it is a FACT, I have received evidence sufficient, to satisfy my mind—and although it is true, that I cannot at present disclose the source of information, I think it a justifiable policy, and a social duty, that I should sound an ALARM, by a detail of circumstances, the truth of which being myself persuaded of, I leave the world and Mr. Adee, to think and act as they please."

"You sent a certain French general to explore the western part of the United States—the counties of Pennsylvania, beyond the Allegany, Kentucky, the country along the Ohio, to the Mississippi.—You in-