

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1799.

RASTADT, *March 21.*

Count Metternich should quit this place it would be the first stroke, towards the dissolution of the congress. It is said, that at his departure he will state his sentiments, respecting the rupture which the French have actually commenced, and the particular contents of the manifesto of the French directory. The ambassadors from Saxony and Hanover will remain here, until every hope of the further operations of the congress has totally disappeared. It is asserted, that the Prussian court still firmly insists on the retreat of the French troops from those districts on the right bank of the Rhine, where the theatre of the war is not established. The Prussian ministers here are more busy now than ever. The minister, Alquier and Bucher, wait here for orders from their government respecting their future destination. They paid visits to most of the deputies, and dined with the Prussian minister. The French ministers at the congress declare, that they will not sooner quit the congress, than when the imperial army should advance, in which case they would proceed to Nancy or Strasburg, in order to prosecute the negotiation with those states of the empire which are disposed for peace.

March 24.

Yesterday 15 French gens d'arms arrived suddenly in town, with their officers and a trumpeter. A great number of people instantly assembled around them. Their appearance was so much more unexpected, because nobody was prepared for their arrival, nor could their intentions be guessed at. Some, who pretended to know more than the rest, asserted, that the French minister Bonnier had occasioned this arrival from singular motives of timidity. However, the affair was thought to extraordinary by the Austrian minister, count Metternich, that he demanded an immediate explanation from the French embassy. Their answer was, that the arrival of 15 persons as ordinances had happened through mistake, and that four only had been wanted. Nevertheless the supernumerary gens d'arms still remain here, and it is asserted, that their arrival had been occasioned by the news received yesterday, of general Jourdan's having been defeated by the archduke Charles. If this account is true, the congress will certainly now break up.

April 4.

The French have repassed the Rhine this afternoon in the greatest confusion, at Kehl. It is said that the archduke is now marching by Schaffhausen into Switzerland, and only leave in this quarter a corps of observation under the command of general Starry. On the 30th and 31st some affairs of posts took place to the advantage of the Austrians, but we do not know what are the details of it. What follows has been sent from Basle, under the date of the 3d — "Very serious disturbances have taken place at Molnang and Flaawyl, in the canton of Appenzel. The Helvetic directory is in the most serious alarm on the subject, although Massena, stationed along the Rhine, and having destroyed all the bridges situated along this river from Constance, as far as Basle, promises to do impossibilities for their support, and assures them of the support of the great nation. The Austrians are expected and desired with great anxiety. At Augst, in the canton of Basle, adjoining the Frickthal and Villies Forestieres, 500 Swisss who were ordered to march to Rheinfeld, have refused to go, and returned into Basle. The legislative body have in consequence of this decreed the pain of death against such Swisss of the regiment appointed as shall make a similar refusal, and have ordered that all unmarried Swisss, without distinction, from the age of 20 to 45 years as well as all married men under 30, shall immediately repair to the frontiers. Basle has been put into a state of siege.

HAGUE, *March 26.*

At Brussels bloody quarrels have taken place among the French soldiers themselves, the commandant was obliged to order out a whole battalion against the combatants, and could not reduce them to order but by force. Since the renewal of the war in Germany, the numerous friends of the emperor in Belgium, wait for the arrival of the British and Russian troops, which induced the French general Crevodi to issue a most severe proclamation.

LIVERN, *March 27.*

Our directory having declared war against Austria, orders have been sent off to the commanders of the militia of Basle, Zurich, Schaffhausen, &c. to repair to the Rhine, and put themselves under the command of general Keller, under the direction of the French. The day before yesterday the directory gave orders to general Keller to break down or burn all the bridges over the Rhine into Switzerland. General Massena has arrived at Constance with a strong body, in order to defend Switzerland against an invasion. In the

Grisons he has made preparations for the defence of the country.

ZURICH, *March 21.*

We are now in great uneasiness. Government has to appropriate the militia to the defence of the frontiers of the country, but this measure meets with great difficulty in the execution. Two districts in the canton of Glarus, Flaawyl, and Molnang (late St Gall) are in a state of actual insurrection. They have had the boldness to oppose the conscription of the militia, cut down the tree of liberty, and mal-treated or expelled the magistrates.

SUABIA, *April 4.*
PROCLAMATION

Of the archduke Charles, commander in chief of the Imperial troops, to the Swisss.

In consequence of the two victories obtained over the French army which, without any previous declaration of war, had advanced from their positions, and had exercised hostilities and made attacks in every quarter, the troops under my command entered the Swisss country, not to wage war with the well affected Swisss, but to pursue the common enemy, against whom you yourselves bravely fought for your liberty and independence, and whose superior force alone was able to reduce you to the wretched situation in which you are placed, and against whom you have already so strongly expressed your decided opinion. Among other pretences which are brought forward to reconcile you to this state of dependence and subjection, in which you are placed, it has been represented as the object of the Imperial court to make your territories the subject of partition. Attempts likewise have been made to alarm you with the apprehension that the Imperial army threatened you with subjugation and plunder.

For these reasons, I feel myself called upon solemnly to make known to the whole Swisss nation, that it is the purpose of his Imperial majesty to regulate himself by the assurances which their high mightinesses of the Swisss confederacy have on every occasion discovered of their constant friendship and neighbourly regard, and to preserve with them the friendly relations which have hitherto subsisted. His Imperial majesty likewise has no other object in view but to enter upon negotiations by which the Swisss may be secured in their independence, integrity, freedom, privileges and possessions.

For these reasons, I expect that the troops under my command, which have entered the Swisss territories from the purest motives, will upon this arduous and pressing occasion, be supported by all those who have a regard to the interest of their country and the true interest of the confederacy, and that the people of Switzerland will abstain from every measure by which the evils of war may be increased.

Among the various advantages which such a conduct will confer upon Switzerland, it will not be the least considerable that the regulations which have been imposed with hostile views, and by violent interference, will be abolished, and that the former relations, with regard to commerce and communication between Germany and Switzerland, will be again established.

(Signed) THE ARCHDUKE CHARLES.

March 30, 1799.

ROVEREDO, (a town of Germany, in the Tyrol, seated on the Adige,) *April 2.*

After the French on the 30th ult. had made the fourth fruitless attack on the Austrians in Italy, under the command of general Kray, they on the 31st attempted a fifth, and general Scherer appeared determined to defeat the Austrians, and take Legnano, and Verona, before the Russians should arrive. With this view he continually brought up fresh troops, and reinforced himself with the garrisons of Mantua, and Peschiera, but all his endeavours failed, and on the 31st he was entirely defeated with great loss. The Austrians cut off the retreat of the French at Rivoli, and they lost in killed, wounded and prisoners, not less than 8000 men.

(Another letter, same date.)

"The magistracy of this city have received the following official account, dated Verona, head quarters of general Kray, 1st April.

"In the night, between the 30th and 31st, a French column passed the Adige over a bridge of boats near Rivoli, to attack in flank by the mountains, the right wing of the Imperial army. The generals Kray and Kaim, had recourse to the following stratagem: They caused their infantry to retreat almost to Verona, in order to amuse the French, while a corps of cavalry having with them 20 or 25 pontoons, went by the bye-roads, and destroyed the bridge. The retreat of the French column being thus cut off, 2000 were killed and wounded, and the remaining 6000 laid down their arms. They had with them 11 pieces of cannon, and a great number of ammunition waggons."

LINDAU, *April 6.*

Jourdan's retreat has destroyed the whole French plan of operations. General Massena is now attempting to defend Switzerland, and all his forces are assembling between Rheinau and Constance. His head quarters were, on the 4th at Rheinau, from whence they have been moved to Geisberg. He is himself gone to Basle.

Generals Hotze, Jellachich and Bellgarde, were preparing to make a general attack upon the Grisons the moment the archduke enters Switzerland by Schaffhausen. It appears there are great troubles in that country. General Hotze has not yet entered the canton of Zurich.

FRANCE.

COUNCIL OF FIVE HUNDRED.

Sitting of April 17.

In pursuance of the president's invitation, council resolved itself into a general committee, to hear the reading of a message from the directory.

A three o'clock the sitting became public, and a second reading of the message was called for. The proposition was opposed by a great number of members, and the question being put, the president declared it was negatived.

Remonstrances and murmurs were heard from all quarters of the council.

Fabre (de l'Aude) asked why the message, which contained nothing that ought to be concealed, and only stated as a certainty that the levy of 200,000 men was not complete, should not be read?

The president once more put the question on the reading of the message, and it was carried in the affirmative.

The substance of it is as follows:

"The executive directory thinks it its duty to acquaint you, citizen representatives, that notwithstanding all the activity and care employed in the execution of the law with respect to the conscription, the levy of 200,000 men is not entirely effected, and that the lists are still far from being completed. But the greatness of the efforts made by the coalition, requires that we should rapidly call into action all our resources, in order to force it to the conclusion of a permanent peace.

"The pressure of the circumstance is known to you, it is a matter of instant urgency to give to the directory the power of taking from the 2d and 3d classes the number of men necessary to complete the levy. You will also form a judgment that it is in want of a certain latitude of acting to ascertain the result of that measure. It thinks necessary to declare, that it cannot be delayed without exposing the republic to danger, and compromising the glory of her arms, and the safety of her allies. By assuring to our armies a great superiority, the measure may also spare the effusion of blood, and finally compel our enemies to respect us."

The council declared the urgency of the message, and directed it should be carried into effect.

LONDON, *April 18.*

Ancona is said to be taken by the Russians and Turks.

Insurrections have broken out in various parts of Switzerland; the people of several districts have cut down the tree of liberty, refused to obey the decrees for enrolling themselves in the militia, and driven away the public functionaries.

The archduke Charles is making preparations to advance into Switzerland; and has issued a proclamation to the Swisss. He has been joined by general Starry.

La Prudente, French sloop of war, and the Goliath, transport ship, have been taken by a British frigate. La Prudente had 20 men killed, and 25 wounded. They were bound to Ireland, with cargoes of muskets, powder, shells and grenades.

April 23.

Extract of a letter from colonel Williams, *March 27.*

"I have just time to tell you that a second battle took place on the 25th, at Stockak, in which the French have been severely beaten; as they have also been by general Hotze, near Feldkirch. In this latter action the French have lost 2000 men. On the morning of the 26th, 150 waggons of their wounded, each containing seven or eight men, arrived at Lindau. The loss has, however, been considerable on both sides, though the number of the French is greater than ours. The French, in consequence of the victory of general Hotze, are crossing the Rhine with great precipitation at Bregentz. I have not time to say any more."

A New-Castle paper of Saturday last contains the following paragraph:

"We have just learnt that a master of a neutral vessel who arrived at Sunderland on Thursday from Amsteldam, has brought intelligence that the French directory having withdrawn great parts of the troops from Holland to reinforce their beaten armies on the