

dispatch, and an army of 30,000 men to be got ready immediately, and every thing begins to assume the appearance of war."

It is generally believed, indeed, that the interference of France in the affairs of the republic of the Seven Islands has given much displeasure to his Imperial majesty; but it is not likely that Russia will assume an attitude hostile to France at present.

The funds this morning continued to look up. The three per cents. were at 12 o'clock, 64 1-2 for cash, and 64 3-4 for the account.

Letters from Leghorn speak of the alarm and anxiety that prevail in that city, in consequence of our preparations. Most of the English families have sent their effects on board English vessels in the harbour. The Tuscan garrison, at Fort St. Marc, has been within this month, replaced by a French garrison. The respect which France shows for her allies and independent powers is admirable—she pours a military force into their towns at pleasure—turns out the native troops from the garrisoned towns, and occupies the fortified places with her own soldiers—what a blessing to have such a friend and protector!

May 4.

The 3 per cent. consols, which at one o'clock yesterday had got up in price, fell again before the close of the market to 63 3-4. A report was circulated, that a communication would be made to parliament the evening, in consequence of dispatches brought by Mr. Dressing, the messenger. Nothing, however, has transpired; but it is now asserted that lord Whitworth's household is ready to move at the shortest notice; and that he will certainly leave Paris on Monday next, unless he is enabled to tend over the chief consul's unqualified acceptance of the sole conditions upon which the armaments will be suspended, and offensive measures delayed.

Government sent orders yesterday through the custom house, prohibiting the exportation of the salt-petre lately shipped in the Thames for Amsterdam; and the necessity of sending a formidable fleet immediately to sea, caused a very hot press to take place on the river last night.

Reports of the changes in administration still continue. Some assert that the arrangements were finished yesterday, and that the earl of Rosslyn negotiated the measure, and is expected to succeed the duke of Portland in the presidency of the council. We do not believe it.—*Star*.

Private letters received by the Dutch mail, state, that a general belief prevails in that country of a speedy change in its government being in the contemplation of the chief consul. Incensed at the wish that has been so unequivocally expressed, of Holland preferring a neutrality in the event of war between France and this country, and the general disposition which prevails there for renewing the ancient ties which united us and the Dutch, the chief consul has made a demand of 40,000,000 of guilders, and has moreover intimated that a great political change is at hand. The least that is expected is a change of all the men who at present compose the Batavian government, but the general apprehension is, that Holland will be incorporated with France.

A fresh mail arrived last night, and brought the Paris journals to the 30th ultimo, inclusive. All the information they contain, deserving of any notice, may be compressed in the most narrow compass, viz. The grand parade of the present month will take place on Sunday next. It appears the Dutch have official information of the surrender of the Cape to its former masters: it also appears, that Russia will not accept the proposition of sending troops to Malta. The report of the arrival at Ratisbon of the Imperial ratification of the conclusion of the Germanic diet, appears to have been premature, as it had not arrived at that city on the 20th ultimo. The emperor of Morocco requires a tribute from Austria, as possessing Venice, &c. Five per cents. 53 on Friday.

May 6.

This morning the following letter was received by the right honourable the lord mayor, of which he immediately, with becoming zeal, sent copies to Lloyd's coffee house and the stock exchange.

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR.

"Downing-street, Thursday morning,  
Eight o'clock, May 5, 1803.

"Lord Hawkesbury presents his compliments to the lord mayor, and has the honour to acquaint his lordship, that the negotiation between this country and the French republic is brought to an amicable conclusion."

The joyful intelligence spread throughout this large city, with the rapidity of lightning, and it is impossible to describe the demonstrations of satisfaction and joy which were every where expressed, though many affected to fear that the honour of the nation had been compromised, and no little degree of ingenuity was exerted to find out the terms that had been agreed upon between the two governments for terminating the differences that had taken place.

At the stock exchange the effect was such as might have been expected from such pleasing intelligence. The 3 per cent. consols opened at 68, rose rapidly to 71 3-4, and were still looking up when a message came from the treasury to the lord mayor, between twelve and one o'clock, to acquaint him that the former letter was an impudent forgery!

It is impossible to describe the sensation produced by this notice; the stocks instantly tumbled to 63, 62 1-2, 67, and the panic was such, that they certainly would have gone lower, had it not been thought advisable to close up the stock exchange, which was accordingly done at one o'clock, instead of waiting till the usual hour.

The committee of the stock exchange assembled as soon as they received the lord mayor's communication. Several of the brokers went over to the mansion house to consult with his lordship upon the best means of tracing the forgery. He showed them the letter, with lord Hawkesbury's seal; by what means it was procured has not yet been ascertained.

The stock exchange committee have, we understand, declared that all bargains made since this imposition was practised, shall be void.

Government, anxious to prevent the public from being imposed on, instantly sent notices to those quarters most likely to give the contradiction a quick and extensive circulation. Copies of the following were sent to the editors of the different news-papers.

"Thursday, May 5—One o'clock.

"SIR,

"I have to acquaint you, that the message which was supposed to have been sent this morning from lord Hawkesbury to the lord mayor, stating that the negotiations with France had terminated amicably, was a fabrication, and totally destitute of truth."

"J. SARGENT."

We had received Paris Journals in the morning, and could not help comparing one remarkable circumstance in them, with the contents of the forged letter.—At the last consular levee, the ambassadors of all the courts of Europe were present, excepting lord Whitworth. In common times this might happen without being any way singular, but at such a moment as the present, the absence of our minister from the levee was remarkable; and comparing it with the general tenor of the private letters from Paris seemed to threaten something very different from peace. Indeed, the pretended communication was at variance with every thing that has transpired respecting the state of the negotiation; but who could question the truth of a message sent by the lord mayor to Lloyd's coffee house.

The proprietors of the stock exchange have offered a reward of 5000l. for apprehending the author of this forgery, and have resolved every one shall give an account of what bargains he had done both yesterday and to-day. The lord mayor has also offered a considerable reward.

It was nine o'clock this morning when the pretended letter was delivered at the mansion house. It was brought by a person with a foreign accent, in a coarse roquelo travelling coat, and delivered at the side door to a servant of the name of Pink, accidentally there at the time.

We believe it is not customary for government letters, on such occasions, to be sent by any but special messengers, and by these delivered into the hands of the lord mayor, wherever he may be. It was from advertent to this informality that a doubt first arose in the lord mayor's mind, as to the authenticity of the note which he had received—a gentleman was immediately dispatched to Mr. Addington; who returned for answer, that Mr. Vanott had already anticipated his lordship's suspicion by acquainting him in a letter of the trick that had been practised upon him.

Since the detection of the forgery, a report of a very different nature has been circulated, namely, that intelligence has been received by the telegraph that lord Whitworth is now on his way to England. The report is not improbable, but we are the more cautious in giving it instant and implicit belief, till it shall in some way be officially announced, knowing the present state of the public mind, and how apt it is when deceived in one expectation, to run instantly to the opposite extreme.—*Star*.

The exact amount of the sum, of which Mr. Alett stands charged of defrauding the bank of England, is 325,000l.

The emperor of Morocco has demanded of the house of Austria, as the possessor of the states of Venice, the tribute which was formerly paid by that republic.

BELFAST, May 10.

Belfast News-Letter office, May 10th, 10 o'clock,

A. M.

We stop the press to state the arrival of the London papers of Friday last (May 6th). In a second edition of the Courier we find the following most important though most unwelcome intelligence:

W A R.

House of Commons, quarter before five o'clock.

Mr. Addington just declared to the house, that he expects lord Whitworth in this country very speedily, and that general Andreossi has applied this morning for passports for his return. At the same time Mr. Addington stated, that the official communication could not be made to this house till his lordship's arrival in this country. He then moved that the house at its rising should adjourn to Monday.

Mr. Fox objected to this motion—he thought, under the circumstances of the country, the house ought to meet to-morrow.

Lord Hawkesbury could not conceive that any injury would arise from the delay proposed.

Mr. Gray moved an amendment, "that the house should only adjourn till to-morrow instead of Monday."

Mr. Canning supported Mr. Gray's amendment. The house is still sitting, and there is likely to be a division.

The funds Friday morning experienced great fluctuations. They opened at 63, rose to 65, fell back to 64; and at 1-1 o'clock were as low as 62 1-2.

Every means is taken to discover the author of the forged letter sent to the lord mayor on Thursday—and the Sun mentions a report that the person who had committed the fraud had been discovered, and the seal found upon him.

BALTIMORE, June 17.

The following paragraph is extracted from a circular letter from the post-master-general, to the deputy post-masters throughout the United States, dated

General Post Office, April 27, 1803.

"The failures of news-papers have always been subjects of complaint. In some instances evils have arisen from post-masters allowing people to read papers in their offices: This is altogether improper, it is necessary for the officers to desist from this practice, and they are hereby directed not to permit any person to read or handle the news-papers in their offices, but carefully to keep the same under lock, and deliver them to the proprietors when requested."

Annapolis, June 23.  
Law of the Union.

An ACT to make provision for the persons that have been disabled by known wounds received in the actual service of the United States during the revolutionary war.

BE it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That any commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, soldier or seaman, disabled in the actual service of the United States, by wounds received during the revolutionary war, and who did not desert the said service, shall be entitled to be placed on the pension list of the United States during life; Provided, that in substantiating the claim thereto, the rules and regulations following, shall be complied with:

First. All evidence shall be taken on oath or affirmation before the judge of the district in which such invalid reside, or before some person specially authorized by commission from the same judge.

Secondly. The evidence relative to any claimant, must prove decisive inability to have been the effect of known wounds received while in the actual line of his duty, in the service of the United States, during the revolutionary war: That this evidence must be the affidavits of the commanding officer or surgeon of the ship, regiment, corps or company in which such claimant served, or two other credible witnesses to the same effect, setting forth the time and place of such known wounds.

Thirdly. Every claimant shall be examined on oath or affirmation, by some respectable physician or surgeon, to be authorized by commission from the said judge, who shall report in writing his opinion, on oath or affirmation, of the nature of said disability, and in what degree it prevents the claimant from obtaining his livelihood.

Fourthly. Every claimant must produce evidence of his having continued in the service of the United States, to the conclusion of the war in seventy hundred and eighty-three, or being left out of the service in consequence of his disability, or in consequence of some derangement of the army, and of the mode of life or employment he has since followed, and of the original existence and continuance of his disability.

Fifthly. Every claimant must shew satisfactory cause to the said judge of the district, why he did not apply for a pension in conformity to laws heretofore passed, before the expiration of the limitation thereof.

SECT. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said judge of the district or person by him commissioned, as aforesaid, shall give to each claimant a transcript of the evidence and proceedings had respecting his claim; and shall also transmit a list of such claimants, accompanied by the evidence herein directed, to the secretary of the department of war, in order that the same may be examined, and if correct, agreeably to the intent and meaning of this act, the said applicants are thenceforth to be placed on the pension list of the United States: Provided, that in no case a pension shall commence before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and three, except so far as to effect the commutation of half pay received by such officers in which case the proper officer is to calculate the pension from the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-four.

SECT. 3. And be it further enacted, That the pensions allowed by this act shall be estimated in the manner following, that is to say: a full pension to a commissioned officer shall be considered the one half of his monthly pay as by law established, and the proportions less than a full pension shall be the like proportions of half pay. And a full pension to a non-commissioned officer, private soldier or seaman, shall be five dollars per month, and the proportions less than a full pension, shall be the like proportions of five dollars per month, but no pension of a commissioned officer shall be calculated at a higher rate than the half pay of a lieutenant-colonel.

SECT. 4. And be it further enacted, That the pensions becoming such in virtue of this act shall be paid in the same manner as invalid pensioners are paid who have heretofore been placed on the pension list of the United States, under such restrictions and regulations, in all respects, as are prescribed by the laws of the United States, in such cases provided.

NATHANIEL M'CON, Speaker  
of the House of Representatives.  
STEPHEN R. BRADLEY, President  
of the Senate, pro tempore.

Approved, March 3, 1803.  
TH: JEFFERSON, President of the  
United States.