

Also a message agreeing to go into the election of a register of wills for Dorchester county on the 25th instant; which was read.

And the bill authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money for the purpose of finishing a house of worship at Ephesus, the bill authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money for the purpose of defraying the expense of building a house of worship in the town of Emmitsburgh, and the bill authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money for the purpose of finishing the Roman catholic church in Frederick-town, severally endorsed "will pass."

Which were ordered to be engrossed.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 23, 1803.

The supplement to an act for erecting a village at Choptank bridge, in Caroline county, and for other purposes, was read the second time and passed.

Mr. Thomas delivers a supplement to the act for the relief of Hugh Ferguson, of Kent county; which was read.

Mr. Lloyd delivers a bill authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money to purchase a fire engine, and to erect pumps, in the town of Easton; which was read.

Petitions from James Clarke, Vachel Dorsey, of Johnzey, John Lee, Benjamin Thomas and Owen Roberts, of Baltimore county, praying acts of insolvency, were read and referred.

Mr. Hopewell delivers a bill for the benefit of William Henry Lansdale and Thomas Reeder Lansdale, children of Mary Lansdale, of Saint-Mary's county; which was read.

The resolution respecting the appointment of a register of wills for Dorchester county was read the second time, and the question put, That the house assent thereto? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follows:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messrs. Angier, Hatcheson, Thomas, Carcaud, Lemmon, Brown, Rose, Frazier, Miller, Alexander, Wood, Van-Horn, Lowrey, Williams, Hawkins, Shriver, Clarke, Kemp, Montgomery, E. Davis, Lytle, Dickson, Kerfner, Zeller, Yates. 25.

N E G A T I V E.

Messrs. R. Neale, W. Neale, Hopewell, Mercer, Harwood, Hall, Stuart, Chapman, M'Pherson, Ridgeley, Lloyd, Meluy, Dashiell, Carroll, Hyland, Goldborough, Bayly, Sherdine, Calvert, Shaaff, Sudler, Sturgis, Wilson, Purnell, Rich, Turpin, Young, Smith, Swearingen, T. Davis, Linthicum, Bayard, Tomlinson, Crelap, Simkins. 31.

So it was determined in the negative.

A message was prepared and agreed to informing the senate of the nomination of gentlemen to join in the examination of the ballots to be taken for a register of wills for Dorchester county, and proposing 12 o'clock as the time to go into the appointment.

Mr. Mercer delivers a bill for the restraint, maintenance and cure, of persons not found in mind; which was read.

Mr. Brown delivers a bill authorising commissioners to lay out a private road for Richard Mercer, of Baltimore county; which was read.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to lay out and straighten a certain road in Baltimore county, endorsed "will pass with the proposed amendment."

Which amendment was read.

The bill for the benefit of William M'Grigor, the bill authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money to finish the baptist frame meeting-house in Baltimore county, the bill authorising a lottery for raising a sum of money to repair a church, and erect a parsonage-house, in Cecil county, and the bill for the relief of Eleanor Marshall, severally endorsed "will pass."

And the resolution in favour of James Boorman, endorsed "assented to."

Ordered to be engrossed.

L O N D O N, September 26.

Extract of a letter dated Hamburg Sept. 13.

"We have here nothing stirring, and are almost weary of even forming conjectures concerning the state of politics. We look forward with some apprehension to winter, when we shall severely feel the effects of the blockade, in the want of coals from England; the sugar refiners cannot proceed without a supply. Whatever hopes some people's interest may lead them to entertain of the speedy evacuation of Hanover by the French, it does not seem very likely that such an event is very near at hand. This very morning I myself spoke to a French gentleman, enjoying a considerable place under the government, whom I have known a long time, and who has this morning returned from a visit to general Mortier, at Hanover. He said, there was very little probability of the French leaving the electorate, and that their force there was now stronger than ever, being not less than 40,000 men."

September 27.

The French talk of the month of November as the period for attack, and it may be believed, that when their preparations are ready they will make an attack on some part of the British European dominions, unless they are prevented by the elements or intercepted by our navy.

The blockade of the Elbe produces the greatest distress at Hamburg. The journey of Mr. Liston thither, it was hoped, might tend to facilitate the restoration of the commerce of that place, of which we see little prospect while the French continue in possession of Hanover.

The following is a copy of a letter addressed by his royal highness Monsieur, to his Britannic majesty. It was, probably, owing to this letter that a report was lately circulated of the French princes

being about to erect the royal standard on the continent:

Monsieur mon Frere et Cousine. It is with a feeling the most just, and with the liveliest sense of gratitude, that I avail myself of existing circumstances, to demand of your majesty, on my own behalf, in that of my sons, of the princes my cousins, and of all Frenchmen residing in your majesty's dominions, that you would be pleased to allow us to unite ourselves to your faithful subjects, and to offer our services against our common enemy.

We are Frenchmen, Sire, and neither our misfortunes, nor the many acts of injustice we have experienced, have weakened the sacred ties that bind us to our country, but the man who has for the present subjugated France, and rendered it the instrument of his perfidious ambition, is in truth as much the enemy of every Frenchman, as he is of your majesty and of your paternal government. On taking this step, we therefore fulfil a double duty; and if your majesty designs to accept of our services, we will enter into a rivalry with your loyal subjects, in order to prove to you the full extent of our gratitude.

I pray your majesty to receive with your usual goodness, the homage equally sincere as respectful, of every sentiment with which I shall always remain.

MONS. MON FRERE ET COUSINS.

September 28.

Ministers are said to have obtained very important information respecting the meditated invasion, and that it will be attempted immediately, but against what particular point of the coast the consul intends to direct his first attack, must be left to the vigilance of our cruisers to ascertain. It is reported at Dover that Buonaparte will be at Ostend in the course of the present week, at the embarkation of a division of the army destined for this service; and the necessary measures of precaution have accordingly been adopted in every direction by us. Mr. Pitt, as colonel-commandant of the cinque port volunteers, is to meet the mayor of Dover this day upon the subject, and the troops have every where received orders to march at an hour's notice.

At the out ports, a severe press for seamen has again taken place, and every movement of government shews that some strong measure, either of defence or offence, is about to be resorted to very speedily.

September 30.

Major Mackenzie, who has been detained in France as a prisoner, along with the other English ever since the breaking out of the war, arrived in town on Wednesday last. He was one of the gentlemen sent to Fontainebleau, not on their parole of honour, but confined in the most irregular way, merely because they were subjects of his Britannic majesty. About a fortnight ago major Mackenzie set off for England by the way of Brussels, Antwerp and Holland. He had an opportunity of seeing the state of the preparations for a descent on England, in the different ports of Holland and Flanders. He says, that in every river, and upon every canal, they are actively employed in the building of boats. In the Seine, their chaloupes, cannoniers are vessels extremely slight in their form, about sixty feet long, nine feet broad, and about four feet deep in the hold. Those built in Holland are stronger and more sea-worthy. In the latter, the men would be completely protected against the musketry by the height of the sides; but they are very ill adapted to the smallest gale. There are a great number, indeed, on the stocks, but very few ready for sea. In the opinion of major Mackenzie, the French certainly cannot now hazard an attack upon England.

The damage sustained by the dreadful fire which lately happened at Bombay, is computed at six hundred and fifty thousand pounds; nearly five hundred houses were burnt to death. The houses destroyed will not again be erected where they formerly stood, which is a measure calculated to guard against a similar calamity.

A T T A C K O N C A L A I S.

It would appear, by comparing the different accounts which have reached us, that the attack on Calais ceased with the cause which gave rise to it. A number of gun boats were known to be there preparing to sail, and accounts had been received by our cruisers that a much greater number, some say 150 gun boats, were about to leave Ostend. Of course it became an object of moment to prevent, if possible, any kind of co-operation, and an attempt was made to destroy those at the former place.

The attack commenced on Tuesday, as we have before informed our readers, but we have since learnt some important particulars, not yet stated. A cannonade was first made to the eastward, at Dunkirk it is believed, to draw the attention of the enemy that way, and this manœuvre succeeded so effectually, that when our Squadron bore in upon Calais, the cannonade and bombardment was so sudden and unexpected, that the enemy could not get their gun and flat bottomed boats up the harbour, out of the reach of our fire. It was even a considerable time before they recovered so much from their surprize and confusion as to be able to fire a single shot; so that our vessels were able to do them a great deal of mischief. They afterwards opened a fire upon our Squadron from every point of the shore, but we are happy to state, that on that occasion not a single individual was killed, or even wounded, on board our vessels.

The greater part of our shells were seen to fall among their gun boats, when they could not fail to do a great deal of damage. None of them fell short of the boats, but some went over in the town, where

they did much mischief, especially in the east quarter, which was set on fire in different places.

Whether the enemy had the temerity to imagine they could face our flotilla, or found themselves so much annoyed where they were, that they thought they would be as safe to endeavour to skirt along the shore to some other post under the protection of the numerous batteries which line the coast, and in consequence ventured to quit the harbour of Calais, we cannot take upon us to determine. We are, however, rather inclined to attribute their movement to the latter motive, which would also be strengthened by the consideration that, by quitting the harbour, they would draw away our fire from Calais, which was suffering severely by the bombardment, the town being in a blaze in different quarters. But whatever was the inducement, it is certain, that on Wednesday morning from 25 to 30 of the gun boats were seen to come out of Calais harbour, as we yesterday stated.

They appeared at first to have an intention to proceed to the eastward, but soon after, probably in consequence of perceiving some of our vessels too much in shore to allow of their passing, without more risk than they were willing to encounter, they changed their course and proceeded along shore towards Boulogne. Our flotilla pursued them keeping up a brisk fire, and failing as near shore as the depth of water would allow. The gun boats could be plainly seen from Dover, between our vessels and the shore. One of the frigates and a gun brig were constantly enveloped in smoke. The whole of the French coast extending from the cliffs at the westward of Calais, to the entrance into Boulogne Bay, was one continued line of smoke, and the wind being to the eastward almost every gun was heard on the opposite English coast. Some of the enemy's boats were driven on shore, but the greater part, it is believed, made their way into the bay of Boulogne, whither our fleet was seen to be chasing them about half past two o'clock on Wednesday, still keeping up such a tremendous fire, that they must have suffered very severely.

It would appear, however, by the accounts that have reached us this morning, that they are likely to experience as little civility from our Squadron in their present quarters as in those they last quitted; for with the dawn of day, a fresh cannonade and bombardment commenced again yesterday, and continued till between three and four o'clock, when it became most tremendously heavy. The French coast being covered with a heavy fog our Squadron could not be seen from the coast about Dover, but from the sound its direction plainly appeared to come from Boulogne whither our brave tars had chased the enemy the preceding day. Next post we expect will bring us some interesting particulars respecting the attack. In the mean-time we subjoin the following.

Admiralty-office, Oct. 1.

Copy of a letter from rear-admiral Montagu to Sir Evan Nepean, bart. dated on board H. M. S. Utrecht, Downs, Sept. 28.

SIR,

Enclosed I have the honour to transmit a duplicate of intelligence received from captain Jackson, of the Autumn, the original being transmitted to the commander in chief.

I am, &c.

MONTAGU.

His majesty's sloop Autumn, off Calais, September 28.

The wind springing up yesterday morning from the eastward, I thought it a proper opportunity to attack the enemy's vessels in Calais, in order that they should not get them up the harbour out of the reach of our fire. I waited till it was half ebb in the harbour, at which time they took the ground; we then bore up and after trying and finding out the distance, we anchored; the bombs to the N. E. of the town, the other part of the Squadron abreast of the town and pier heads, to draw the enemy's fire as much as we could from the bombs, so as not to prevent their acting. After we anchored abreast of the town and pier head battery, the enemy opened their fire on us from all directions, amongst which I found they had mortars; the first shell fell within a ship's length of us and burst under water; our vessels at that time were so close, that I thought there was a great probability some of their shells might fall on board, whilst I found our shot (though they all reached the pier heads) would not go so far up as their ships, therefore made the signal to weigh and open to greater distance, remaining at anchor myself. The Squadron has been very fortunate in receiving no damage from the enemy's fire. The bombs were not keeping a well directed fire, many of the shells evidently falling in the midst of their gun boats; the shells that fell over their gun boats went into the town, and must have done great damage; the end of the town appeared to be on fire for some time. From the enemy's boats and vessels being covered under the land, it was impossible to judge what damage they sustained, but it must have been considerable; it now came on to blow so fresh from the N. E. that the springs would not hold the ship against the wind and tide; the Tartarus's anchor having given way, I was obliged to make the signal to discontinue their fire.

I have honour to be, &c.

S. JACKSON.

Copy of a letter from admiral lord Keith, to Sir Evan Nepean, bart. dated Monarch, off Broadstairs, September 30.

SIR,

I enclose for their lordship's information, a copy of a letter from captain Honeyman, of his majesty's ship Leda, to rear-admiral Montagu, reporting the attempts which he had made, with his majesty's ship