

L O N D O N .

Dec. 9. Yesterday being the Day appointed for the Execution of Charles Ratcliffe, Esq; about Eight o' Clock in the Morning a Troop of Life Guards, and one Troop of Horse Grenadier Guards, and a Battalion of Foot Guards, marched to Little Tower Hill, where the Horse lined the Way from the Scaffold to Iron Gate, and the Foot Guards and some of the Horse encompassed the Scaffold; about Ten the Block, covered with black, with a Cushion, and two Sacks of saw-dust, were brought up and fixed, and soon after Mr. Ratcliffe's coffin, which was covered with black Velvet, with eight handles, and the nails double gilt; but no Plate upon it. At near Eleven Mr. Alderman Winterbottom and Mr. Alderman Alltop, the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, with their Deputies, &c. came upon the Stage, to see if every thing was ready for their Reception, and finding the Scaffold entirely finished, returned with a Party of Foot-Grenadiers for Mr. Ratcliffe, who came in a coach soon after, and being conducted into the little Booth (which was lined with black for that Purpose) at the Foot of the Stairs leading to the Scaffold, he there spent about half an hour in his Devotions, and then, with the sheriffs, a clergyman, and a few of his Friends, ascended the Stairs, which brought him to the Block. When he came upon the scaffold, he first took leave of his Friends, and after speaking a few words, and giving something to the Executioner, knelt down to Prayer, in which he was assisted by the whole company on the scaffold; when Prayers were over, which lasted about six Minutes, he took off his Hat and Wig, and, with the Assistance of one of the Wardens of the Tower, put on a Damask Napkin made into a cap, and pulled off his cloaths; he then kneeled down, and laid his Head upon the block, and in about two Minutes gave the signal to the Executioner, who sever'd his Head from his Body at three blows, at the first of which the Axe stuck so fast in the block that it was got out with some difficulty. The body was immediately put into the coffin, and carried away in a Hearse that waited for that purpose. He was dress'd in Scarlet cloaths, trimm'd with brass buttons, and Gold work'd button-holes, and turn'd up with black Velvet; a bag Wig, and a white Feather in his Hat; his Deportment was very graceful, and full of sweet composure of Mind.

Mr. Ratcliffe behaved himself very alert until last Thursday, when he received a Letter from his Niece, the Lady Petre, which engaged him to appear in a more settled and solid manner, more agreeable to his unhappy Fate.

The same Lady presented a Petition to his Majesty last Sunday, suggesting, that his Wife was expected in a few days to settle some private affairs with her Husband for the service of the family, and therefore pray'd a Respite of Execution for a short Time; but it is thought his Behaviour in the court of King's Bench prevented any hopes of mercy, to innate to his Majesty.

It seems the Derwentwater estate was only confiscated to the crown for the Life of Charles Ratcliffe, Esq; but by a Clause in an Act of Parliament, pass'd some few Years since, which says, that the Issue of any Person attainted of high Treason, born and bred in any Foreign Dominion, and a Roman Catholic, shall forfeit his Reversion of such Estate, and the Remainder shall for ever be fixed in the Crown. By which clause the Son of that unfortunate Gentleman is absolutely deprived of any Title or Interest in the affluent Fortune of that ancient Family, to the Amount of better than 200,000 l.

It is generally thought, that Mr. Ratcliffe's dependance on his French Master, was one Cause of his not meeting with a more favourable Fate.

Jan. 1. We have certain advice, that the sloop of war carried into St. Maloes, is the Hinchinbrook. She was taken within less than a day's sail of Portsmouth, having been separated from admiral Townshend's squadron in a storm; and had a jury-mast up; notwithstanding which, she defended herself very bravely for 3 hours against a much superior force.

Yesterday it was reported, that the Loujburg fireship, commanded by the brave capt. Delamotte, is taken and carried into France; she was separated from admiral Townshend at the same time with the Hinchinbrook.

Admiral Byng is ordered into the Mediterranean, with 9 men of war of the line, to reinforce admiral Medley.

Jan. 3. The King has been pleas'd to constitute and appoint Sir John Ligonier, knt. of the Bath, to be general of horse.

The King has been pleas'd to appoint the right hon. James Tyrwaley, lieutenant general of his Majesty's forces, to be colonel of the regiment of foot late under the command of lieutenant general Francis Columbine, deceased.

The King has been pleas'd to constitute and appoint the right hon. John earl of Craufurd, major general of his Majesty's forces, to be colonel of the regiment of foot late under the command of brigadier-general Hugh lord Sempill, deceased.

Early yesterday morning his Royal Highness the Duke arrived from Holland at Gravelind, and from thence proceeded by land to Lambeth ferry, from whence he cross'd to St. James's about to the same morning, to the extreme satisfaction of his Majesty, and the whole court.

We hear his Royal Highness will return to Holland the beginning of next month, in order to open very early the ensuing campaign.

Jan. 5. We hear that some Persons who were on board when his Royal Highness came over, will be tried, the Yatch having struck on the sand near Dunkirk, being low water, which, had it been high, in all Probability would have gone into that Harbour.

Excerpt of a Letter from the Hague, dated January 4.

The duke of Cumberland has succeeded in every Instance of his Embassage. The Dutch have not only agreed to send 40,000 Men into the Field, but that they shall have no Field Deputies; and that none of their Generals shall have a negative Voice. The States, taking Advantage of the Weakness of the French in Flanders, have sent 18,000 Dutch Troops in small Parties into the Garrison Towns, who are now forming into Regiments, and Officers are appointed to command them.

Jan. 13. On Wednesday Admiral Warren, who the night before arrived here from Portsmouth, had the honour to wait upon his majesty, who received him very graciously. And we hear he will have the command of a squadron on a newly concerted expedition; and that commodore Matthew Mitchel has hoisted his broad Pendant on board the Greyhound, in the Downs, and is preparing to put to sea with several ships and small Vessels, but upon what design cannot be guessed.

Friday about noon the duke of Cumberland returned from Hobana to St. James's, and tis assured that he has perfectly succeeded in his Negotiations, that the Republic will give him 10,000 l. sterling per annum, in quality of Generalissimo of the Allied Army; that it agreed to the measures proposed, and that his royal highness will return to Holland the beginning of next Month, to open the campaign betimes.

The Rupert man of war is arrived at Portsmouth from the East Indies, with a rich cargo, which consists chiefly of Silver.

It is assured, that when the two Houses of Parliament meet again, the affair of the Admirals and Captains that have been tried by the court martial at Deptford, will again be brought upon the carpet.

The commons have order'd a bill to be brought in for revoking the Acts to prevent commerce with Spain.

There is at Woolwich a numerous Train of Artillery ready to be embark'd upon the first Advice; and several Vessels are to be taken up as Transports to carry Troops into the low countries. It is assured also, that about the end of March, there are to be at Spithead 15 Dutch men of war, which are actually sitting out.

Jan. 15. Last Tuesday the following Gentlemen were appointed Admirals of Great Britain, viz. captains Barnet (now in the East Indies) Osborn, Griffin, Stapleton, Smith, and Berkeley.

Jan. 15. By the last messenger that came from Edinburgh, we have certain accounts that all is quiet in the Highlands; so that the report of some hundreds having got together, and the French having landed some forces, is without foundation.

Jan. 20. Our advices from Vienna, Warsaw and Petersburg, all agree, that on the rising of a Grand Divan, now holding at Constantinople, a war will be declared against the court of Vienna. To this Divan the Great Cham of Tartary has been invited, which is never done but when some important war is on the carpet; and as Peace is made with Persia, the best Ottoman Troops are in motion on the side of Valachia, and the French Remittances so frequent, as puts it out of doubt where the storm will fall.

A Regulation is going to be made in relation to the Equi-