

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, July 7, 1747.

The Printer of this Paper having, it seems, given Offence to some of his Readers, in publishing several Pieces of late, begs leave to insert the following Fable.

A CLOWN, his SON, and their Ass.

ONCE on a time, an honest CLOWN,
 Attended by his only SON,
 Along the Road together pass,
 As they to Market drove their Ass;
 A Plowman working by,——to jeer
 The Couple,——thus began;——I swear,
 Here's Schoolmasters! how grave they walk;
 Their Scholar see before them stalk!
 Folks of less Wit than you possess'd,
 Would certainly have rid the Beast.
 Piqu'd at the sneering Plowman's Whim,
 The Old Man takes his SON, so slim;
 And sets him up.——A Moment after,
 A Passenger remark'd, with Laughter,
 That 'twas a Thing good Sense beside,
 For Men to walk, and Boys to ride.
 So far this Stranger push'd his Jest,
 The Boy was bid to quit the Beast;
 Up then the jolly Peasant got,
 And to the neighb'ring Town they trot.
 'Twas Holy-day, and People store,
 Were in the Streets, and at each Door;
 And as the Couple pass'd,——they said,
 That swinging Booby must be mad,
 To ride himself,——and let his Child,
 With such a dirty Road be toil'd.
 To ease his Son, the Man inclin'd,
 Bid him,——on this,——get up behind.
 Strait from the Boy the People pass,
 To pitying next, the bending Ass,
 See! see! the Creature pants for Breath!
 These Brutes,——cry they,——will be his Death!
 The Bumpkin's now at his Wit's end,
 Himself and's Son at once descend;
 Flat on his Back they lay their Foal,
 Tie his four Feet,——and then a Poll
 Pass through,——next on their Shoulders take
 The Load,——and thus their Journey make.
 At this the Boors,——a noisy Rout,
 Follow in Crouds,——and laugh, and shout.
 The Old one swell'd,——and as they pass
 A Bridge, he o'er it threw his Ass;
 Choosing to lose th' unlucky Beast,
 Rather than be a Village Jest.

"He who for general Praise shall sue,
 "Vexes himself, and pleases few.

H A G U E, April 6.

VERTURES are talked of, in order to make the court of Spain relish certain expedients proposed by the courts of London, Vienna, and Turin, in order definitively to regulate an establishment for Don Philip, the great affair on which depends the repose of Italy, and without which the king of Spain imagines that he cannot with honour hearken to any conditions of peace.

Amsterdam, April 15. We have received advice that an English man of war, whose name is not known, is lost off Cape Spanducnja, but that 240 of the crew were taken up by a man of war of the same nation.

Hague, April 16. The last courier which M. de Theil received from Paris, brought him instructions not to depart in any point from his former. The courier sent to Madrid by M. Maccanas, may possibly be upon the return, considering how long he has been gone; but we hear that the court of Madrid will do nothing to facilitate the assembling the plenipotentiaries, but in concert with that of France.

April 18. The grand pensionary Gilles set out yesterday for Breda, and the earl of Sandwich has taken the same rout this day. Private letters from Flanders say, that there was a camp formed between Bruges and Sluys of 15 or 20,000 French, who give out, that they were going upon an expedition as important as it would be unexpected. As we are not without apprehensions of their having a design upon some place in Dutch Flanders, we are altogether upon the guard in those parts; and ever since the 13th inundations have been made at Sas van Ghent, Fort Philippine, and all the places of the republic on that side.

Paris, April 24. The king has laid aside the design of reviewing the household troops, which have orders to march for Flanders. M. Van Hoey had a long audience of the king on the 11th; in which he made heavy complaints of the late irruption on the side of Bergen op Zoom; but was told that the king's troops had orders to follow their enemies wherever they retired. It is since reported that no further regard will be shewed to the territory of the States General, and that even some of the strong places of the republic will be attacked, such as Sluys, Bergen op Zoom, Boisleduc, and Maestricht, but it is not known which we are to begin with first. The talk of besieging Luxembourg revives. If we could depend upon the state of our army in Flanders, which is handed about here, it would consist of near 160,000 men, but we doubt of their making so good an appearance in the field. Marshal Belleisle is still here.

Antwerp, April 17. Our advices from the frontiers say, that count Lowendahl is at the head of 30,000 men in the neighbourhood of Bruges; that on the 13th the Dutch began to flood the country about Saas van Ghent and Fort Philippine, and other parts belonging to the United Provinces.

This morning we have received advice that the French have entered into the isle of Cadant, and invested Saas van Ghent, and taken a little fort near Bouchonte, in the vicinage of the Philippine, and Essendyke; that they have also become masters of Fort Doel, and have begun to assault Fort Pearle, situate on the left of the Escout above Antwerp.

Geneva, April 11. The English have taken seven ships London with provisions, bound to Marseilles, and have sent three to Port Mahon, and four to Villafranca.

Hague, April 23. The States have ordered all the men of war and frigates which are ready, immediately to sail to the coast of Zealand, in order to cover that province. The two men of war that were at Helvoetsluys are sailed to Flushing, by order of the duke of Cumberland; and we are assured that a body of 5000 foot, and 1000 horse, is actually marched for Dutch Flanders.

Middleburg, April 20. Several families from the isle of Cadant are arrived hither. The 18th a ship arrived here from Sluys, whose master reports, that the French were in possession of the avenues of that town, and had laid all the country of Axel under heavy contributions. We hear now the report of their cannon, and fear much for Sluys and Saas van Ghent, as they are extended places, and have but weak garrisons; but we hope to be able to throw succours into Hulst.

Brussels, April 24. On the 22d an officer went post through this city to Versailles, with news that Sluys had surrendered, and that the garrison, consisting of 1000 men, were made prisoners of war. That several little forts in the island of Cadant were taken, and that Fort Philippine and Saas van Ghent were invested.

Amsterdam,