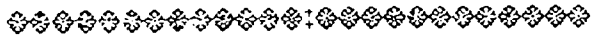


NOW it is evident, that the several Inconveniences before explained, which our Staple, and the Trade for it labour under, would be all effectually remedied by an INSPECTING LAW; and therefore the Necessity and Advantages of such a Regulation must appear visible.

AN INSPECTING LAW is the universal one of Commerce. Except Maryland, where is there now a trading policed Country on the Face of the Globe, whose Staple is not under the strictest PUBLIC INSPECTION?

AS to the Apprehension of Partiality in the INSPECTORS, it can only proceed from the Want of a due Attention to the Nature of the REGULATION. It will be one of those popular Laws, that always execute themselves. The INSPECTORS will be as narrowly watched, as the Counterfeiters and Utterers of false Coin, and for the like Reasons.

[To be Continued]



HAGUE, August 25

IT seems as tho' the siege of Bergen-op-zoom had put all other affairs into a state of suspense, and that the face of this fortress was to determine the conclusion of a peace, or the continuation of the war. In the mean time great wagers are laid on the side of, and against it's being taken; some that it would surrender on or before this day, others before the end of this month; and indeed some are so hardy as to bett, that count Lowendahl will actually fall in his enterprize, if the French king does not force the reduction of the place, by marching the grand army to that general's assistance.

Mr. Ammon, minister from Prussia, is upon this occasion a great wagerer, having betted some hundreds of ducats that that place will be taken before the end of this month. This minister has frequent conferences with the lords of the government, since presenting the remarkable memorial to the States General. This memorial seems to be given in at an unlucky time, for disturbing the tranquility which Holland was in hopes of enjoying after the siege of Bergen-op-zoom should be raised. The declaration which the ministers from Berlin have made in most of the courts of Europe, concerning the dispositions the king of Prussia was in, to employ his good offices, in order to bring about a general pacification, is known to almost every body, though but very few are acquainted, that by the memorial which the court of Berlin has caused to be lately presented at the Hague, the king of Prussia, as we are told by persons of high credit, shews as much surprize as discontent at the excuses said to be committed by the troops of Hesse and likewise those of Wurtzburg, in passing thro' his dominions to go to Bergen-op-zoom; and that as these troops are in the pay of the republic, his Prussian majesty insists upon public satisfaction being given him by the government therefore, and that his subjects may be immediately indemnified for the damages they have thereby sustained.

One may easily imagine how astonishing this part of the declaration must have been to the States General, since the above troops have in all the places through which they passed, conducted themselves as discreetly and cautiously, and to exact a discipline was every where observed, that they could not have behaved better had they marched through the gallery of the king at Versailles, seeing many letters assure, that the soldiers have not dared to break off the least branch of a tree, even to make a tobacco stopper.

The States General answered the Prussian minister, That as they never had yet heard any complaint of the conduct of these troops, they little expected any reproaches from the king of Prussia, with whom the republic ever has lived, and always desires to live in friendship, and strictly to adhere to the treaties which subsist between them: That their High Mightinesses will however very attentively examine into this affair, in order to give a suitable satisfaction, to the end that they may demonstrate to his Prussian majesty how dear his friendship is to the United Provinces. All this seems to cover some mystery, and there is the more reason to think so, when it is considered that this declaration was made at the instigation of France, and that the king of Prussia on his part could not be sorry to have the affair become serious, in order to have a pretence to cause troops to march into the duchy of Cleve.

As to the States General, we are almost assured that his Catholic majesty will declare war by sea and land against the

Dutch, if these last declare war against his Most Christian majesty; their High Mightinesses have for this reason hastened the departure of baron Wassenar, ambassador to his Catholic majesty, with orders to go to Madrid as soon as possible. The negotiation with which this ambassador is charged is, as we are well assured, very advantageous for Spain, seeing the States General, in order to satisfy that crown, offer to lay a bridge of gold for the Spaniards to carry on commerce with them. The following is the substance of the principal articles.

"There is to be almost an entire change of the ancient treaty, as well in respect to the trade of the Indies as to that in Europe. A treaty of friendship, relating to the article of commerce, is to be negotiated between the two powers, which is to last in war as well as in peace, and is not to be interrupted by any cause whatsoever: That in case one of the powers should be engaged by his ally to declare war against the other, and that the United Provinces should be under a necessity of making such a declaration against Spain, the Spanish and Dutch trading vessels may nevertheless be exempt from the effects of such war, and continue without interruption to carry on commerce amongst themselves, upon the footing, and conformable to the treaty which shall be established between the two nations, &c."

It is not doubted but that baron de Wassenar will do every thing in his power to bring the Spanish ministry into the measure of the republic, and that Spain in the present conjuncture will take advantage of it, in making the best terms possible with the Dutch, who would gladly preserve this branch of trade, in case of a rupture with France. But it is greatly to be apprehended, that the absolute authority which the French king at that court will more than over-balance the temporary promises made by the Dutch throne.

The edict lately published by the French king, and registered by the Parliament of Paris, for creating annuities upon the town house, to the amount of one million two hundred thousand livres per annum, contains some very singular particulars. It is said his majesty is moved thereto by the necessity he is himself under of augmenting his forces, and it is augmented it is said will consist of 70,000 men. All persons, of whatever rank, age, sex, or nation, whether strangers or natives, clergy or lay, ray, even monks and nuns, and that by the rules of their order are allowed to enjoy pensions and properties are invited to purchase them, with abundance of fair promise as to the punctuality of their payment; and their exemption from all imposition whatever. That they may come to market the easier, they are divided into actions or policies of 1000 livres each, and these again are divided into 14 classes, the first taking in children from one to ten years old, who are to receive seventy livres per annum for the loan of a thousand, the next the next extending to old men of seventy and upwards, who are to receive an annuity of an hundred and forty livres for the like sum. It appears from hence, that the French are forced to create their debts; for those annuities, as well as those formerly created, are charged upon the standing revenues of the crown. By this scheme, if they are able to subscribe these annuities, there may be raised about half a million Sterling.

Genoa, August 7 An English man of war of 70 guns, laden with all the bells of the valley of Poltevera, Seim, and Pegli, is lost in the port of Vaco, and all the crew perished.

L O N D O N, August 8.

List of the Sixteen Peers return'd for Scotland.

Duke of Gordon, Duke of Argyle, Marquis of Tweeddale, Marquis of Lothian, Earl of Crawford, Earl of Rothes, Earl of Morton, Earl of Murray, Earl of Home, Earl of Lauderdale, Earl of Louison, Earl of Lindlatier, Earl of Leven, Earl of Aberdeen, Earl of Dunmore, Earl of Hyndford.

August 29. Several private letters from the Hague mention the following circumstances as facts that may be depended upon; viz. That his serene highness prince Waldeck has sent the prince Stadtholder a complete collection of the instructions, orders, and letters, sent to him during the time he commanded the troops of their High Mightinesses, with a memorial shewing that every part of his conduct has been absolutely regular, and altogether conformable to those instructions; which, considering the circumstances he was in, it was incumbent upon him to yield obedience to. It is also said, that the Dutch nation in general, are bent upon a speedy and thorough enquiry into the true causes of their present heavy misfortune; and that a review of the foreign negotiations, the administration of domestic affairs, and more particularly of the finances for the last twenty years, will be certainly made for the satisfaction of the people, whom it is difficult otherwise to keep quiet.