

be two following Letters relating to the Discovery of a subterranean City, in the Kingdom of Naples, we hope will not be unacceptable to many of our Readers. The first is from a Knight of Malta, dated the 24th of June last, and runs thus:

I Have seen what may be esteemed a singularity in history. The city of Heraclea, of which Pliny speaks in his letters, that by an eruption of mount Vesuvius, was covered many feet deep under cinders, and has been discovered at a place called Portici, a country palace of the king of the Two Sicilies. This city is in fire, the houses have been found perfectly furnished, and the furniture well preserved. I have seen every thing prepared for dinner at the time the eruption happen'd, as bread, meat, wine, &c. all very fresh; utensils, earthen vessels, tools, fishing-neets of silk, not very different from those now in use. They have found there an intire theatre, with it's statues in metal; and marble relicks of the finest antiquity, with paintings in fresco, extremely well preserved, but with this singularity, that they have only two colours: This will not appear wonderful to those who are acquainted with the origin of painting; because it is agreed, that our first painters used only a single colour, which was nothing but a simple crayon; afterwards they used two, and by degrees they came to intermix all kind of colours, to make their pictures more agreeable, and to give the better expression to their drapery, and to their carnation: This shews how precious these pieces are for their antiquity. The king has paid several parlours of his new palace, which is adorn'd with these rarities, with mosaic and other pavements taken up intire.

In the second Letter, which was written from Rome in the Month of June last, by the Abbe d'Orval, at his Return from Naples and Portici, he expresses himself upon this Subject thus:

That which we have found most wonderful, and which will appear a most incredible to the world, is a subterranean city, overwhelmed with the ashes of mount Vesuvius, under the reign of Titus, about 30 years after the coming of Christ. This city, which the historians of those times, who speak of it's subversion, call Heraclea, was discovered two or three years ago, by order of the king of Naples; and they have been digging it up ever since. They have drawn from thence, and are every day drawing a strange number of inestimable value, the most precious kind of marbles and rich remains of Antiquity of all kinds, which are employed by his majesty in adorning his palaces. For my part, who have visited this city, I contented myself with taking some coals and some bread of those times, which remain perfectly found in the houses, and the remains of a piece of painting I found in a hall. In regard to household stuff furniture, the ornaments of the ladies' rooms, and intruments used in sacrifice, they are ranged in the king's cabinets as they come to hand; for this research is made very slowly, and with great precautions, that they may lose nothing; because all that is recovered is esteemed of very high value. And yet we do not hear of their finding any manuscripts, but there seems to be no sort of doubt that they will be found; and I am very fully persuaded, that of all the treasures drawn from this wonderful city, these will be consider'd as deserving the highest esteem.

August 22. We have advice from the Hague, that they are inform'd from the French camp, that marshal Saxe has explain'd away the overtures made by the king his master to the court of Great-Britain; inasmuch that this affair seems now intirely at an end.

His Sardinian majesty has sent an officer to Vienna, to present the empress with the cross of the order of Malta, which was taken from the body of the chevalier de Belle Isle, after he was kill'd at the battle of Exilles. The standards also taken by the Imperial troops have been sent thither.

According to letters from diverse places in the mayoralty of Boffelud, the French have exacted a new contribution of 5000 rations of forage from that territory; and in order to get it delivered the sooner, they sent parties into the villages of Bergreyk, Borkel, and Westerhove, to the castle of Eerick, and even as far as Domiesen; in some of which they seized and carried off, as hostages, the mayors, or the ministers of churches; and from others they carried away plenty of beer, hams, cheeses, and other provisions.

We hear that count Bentinck, one of the States General, and nearly related to the duke of Porland, is to desire that a treaty with France may not be thought of in the present situation of affairs, and to give some assurances which are very acceptable from his serene highness the prince of Orange.

Extract of a Letter from the Itague, August 18.

“ People here are at a great loss to discover the real subject of the negotiation with which the earl of Sandwich is charged; though it is asserted by some to be of a very important nature, and so far from having peace for it's object, that on the contrary it has a tendency towards causing some of the Allied troops to be engaged with the wiles of Champagne and Burgundy; and that it will go near to change the face of public affairs in general, a divorce being talk'd of on the one hand, and fresh alliances on the other. That lord would have been forming it sooner in Holland, but was detain'd, in order to have his commission more complete, and to wait the drawing up of some secret articles of the utmost importance, which will probably soon make a great noise in the world; as some of them are said to relate to the ulterior death of one of the army under the command of his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, and marshal Bathiani, which is, 'tis said, to be employ'd to the great advantage and glory of the Allied powers.

By letters from the French king's head quarters we are told that couriers pass very frequently between the French court and that of Madrid, and that the former earnestly presses the latter to cause to be equipped with the utmost diligence all the men of war, fire ships, and bomb vessels, that it possibly could; and to join the French Squadron with them, which is assembling at Breil, in order to go upon an important expedition: The same letters intimate, that the Pretender's eldest son set out from Paris the beginning of June last, under the pretence of serving as a volunteer in his majesty's army; but this was, 'tis said, given out, to prevent further enquiry about him, he having never been there. Besides, large sums have been remitted him from the royal treasury to Holland, where he was some time ignorant; but whether he is now gone is not known. The design of the French in telling this tale, may, it is presumed, be easily seen through.”

The Cumberland, Dyer, the Nancy, Cown, and the Brye, Boats, are all three arrived from Barbadoes; by whom there is an account, that Thomas Frankland Esq; member of parliament for Thrusk in Yorkshire, commander of his majesty's ship the dragon, hath taken three Spanish and one French privateer, and three St. Domingo ships, and carried them to Barbadoes. He has also taken 1 French and 1 Spanish privateer, and carried them into St. Kitt's, and two Spanish privateers into Antigua.

By the Skipper Gabby Garbrards, arrived in the Terel we have advice, that on the 14th of July, off Cape Finisterre, he fell in with an English man of war and two privateers, who had a Spanish register ship in tow, laden with gold and silver; and on the 15th inst. he fell in with 10 English men of war, having with them two French men of war, two East India ships, and one Martinico ship.

There is also an account, that his majesty's ship the Princess, and another man of war, fell in with a fleet of 30 vessels bound to Genoa, and took 10 of them, together with their convoy, and carried them into Leghorn, the remainder got into Specia.

Yesterday it was currently reported, that two privateers had taken three French ships from Bordeaux bound for the West-Indies, and that one of them was carried into North Wales.

August 29. They write from Ratibon, that the greatest politicians there are much at a loss for the true cause of count Seckendorff's returning at this time into the service of the court of Vienna. Some say, that field marshal Trann recommended him, a little before his being seized with that distemper, of which he is now at the last extremity; others persuade themselves, that it was brought about by his giving the first hint of a certain secret and dangerous alliance, that has been for some time negotiating in Germany; but those come the nearest to truth, in the opinion of the best judges, that suggest he will be employ'd in Hungary, to put the kingdom in a proper state of defence, in case the turks after all should be either bribed or cheated into a war, which, it seems, is not thought altogether impossible.

They write from Vienna, that a captain and twenty-five soldiers, who were recruiting in the county of Marosche, from the son of an old gentleman, who reclaim'd them; but the captain refusing to part with him, the old gentleman raises a rebellion upon the captain's troops, and not contented