

T H E  
M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,

No. 159.

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

WEDNESDAY, May 11, 1748.

AIX, (in France,) Jan. 20.

THE English having for some time, taken almost all the ships, that have sailed from Marseilles for the Levant, or from the Levant to Marseilles, it has been thought proper for a while to suspend all commerce to those parts: in consequence of which, several ships are unloading till a more favourable opportunity. The loss already sustained by the merchants is almost insupportable, and the misfortune is greatly enhanced by the dearth of provisions throughout all Provence. By our last letters, two ships, laden with corn from Barbary, were expected in that port: The arrival of which is of so much consequence, that if the Enemy should take them, the Marseillians must famish with hunger.

Hague, Feb. 8. Letters from Petersburg say, that a squadron of 16 men of war, 6 frigates, and two bomb vessels, with provisions for 5 months, are ready to sail to Cronstadt, as soon as the Baltick is opened.

The college of the admiralty have taken such measures, that exclusive of those for protecting the coast, we shall have 20 sail of men of war ready for the service in April next, and the utmost diligence is used to augment the number.

L O N D O N, February 4.

The public prints having master'd for us an army of 195,000 men, we ought to observe, that, during the greatest part of king William and queen Anne's wars, the whole confederate forces were reckon'd to be considerably above 200,000: But, as Italy seems to be left out in the present computation, we may hope, that if the Netherlands and Germany have the number above mentioned, the whole allied strength will be as great now as in former times. However, all this is uncertain, and we have been so often disappointed of success on the Continent, that our hopes there cannot be greatly elevated.—On the Sea, if the same pains be taken to collect all the strength we can command, the entire ruin of the enemy's commerce would be almost unavoidable, and we should have little room to doubt of our getting possession of their most valuable Colonies.

We hear that a great man, famous for moderation and equity, is at present very warm for continuing the war against France, contrary to the opinion of another great person, who was tho't from the sprightliness of his temper, to have in him more of the martial spirit.

The connoisseurs in politics all agree, that a peace is actually resolved upon.

We hear that the propositions made by France, &c. to his majesty for a general peace, will soon be laid before both houses of parliament.

Fourteen ships richly laden with furs, &c. are arrived at the port of Brest.

There is also an account that the French will have in the spring sixty sail of men of war; and that there is now twenty-one men of war, old and new, at Brest; at Rochfort three just launched, at Toulon five, at Port Louis five, at Havre seven, ten expected from Sweden, and some others contracting for at that court.

As several letters from different parts of Italy, by the last mail, mention a general insurrection in the island of Sardinia, it may not be amiss to inform the public whence that story arose. A gentleman returning from that island to Sicily, touched at Leghorn in his way; and being overheard, at his departure from thence, to tell one of his friends, that at his leaving Cagliari, the whole city was in the utmost confusion, and that he was afraid they would soon hear melancholy news; this was presently interpreted to be an insurrection, or a dangerous sedition at least; whereas the real fact was, that one of the greatest convents in the city had suddenly fallen down, crushed most of the nuns to pieces, and buried alive near a hundred young women of the best fa-

milies in the island, who boarded there for the sake of education.

On Friday night general St. Clair set out for Turin, where he is to reside.

On Monday next rear-admiral Osborne, lately appointed commander in chief of his majesty's ships station'd at the Leeward islands and Barbados, sets out for Portsmouth, in order to hoist his flag on board his majesty's ship the Tilbury now at Spithead, and is to sail with the first fair wind to the West-Indies.

London, Feb. 11. By letters from Rome we have advice, that lately died there in a mad-house, one George A. chinson, an Irish presbyterian, who went thither to convert the Pope, on a persuasion that he was a prophet sent by God for that purpose.

This day the duke of Bedford kissed his majesty's hand on his being appointed one of the secretaries of state, in the room of the right hon. the earl of Chesterfield, who resigned, and received the keys accordingly.

And we are well informed, that the right hon. the earl of Sandwich will be appointed first lord of the admiralty.

And also, that Sir Peter Warren will be made one of the lords of the admiralty.

Yesterday arrived at Spithead from Holland, a Dutch man of war, of 64 guns; and she brings advice, that several more of the same nation, will be at Spithead in a short time.

This morning arrived a mail from Ireland, by which we have advice, that on the 26th of Jan. a dreadful fire broke out in the prison at Kinsale, in which the French and Spaniards were confin'd, which was entirely consumed. It is not certain how this calamity happen'd; but, we hear, it was owing to a candle, in one of the rooms, being put into a hole, where was a parcel of straw, and set fire to it, and soon communicated it self to the straw-bedding. Several of the prisoners had the good luck to break out at the windows and doors: But next morning, on murthering the prisoners, fifty four were missing; and as a great many bodies were found without heads, and heads without bodies, it is feared they perished in the flames.

Bergen-op Zoom, Feb. 8. The desolation in this place is extreme, several houses being every day pulled down by the French for firing. They have cleared all the country, and there is scarce a tree, house, barn or hovel for a league round about us. The vaults of the great church, which the French fired with their bombs at the beginning of the siege, and the six great pillars that supported it, fell down the first instant: so that it will be necessary to rebuild that whole edifice.

London, Feb. 16. According to some advices in the Utrecht Gazette, there is great hope of the congress being productive of a general peace; because as they pretend to be informed, the British court is willing enough to restore Cape Breton, in the condition it was in when taken, provided something be given to England, as a compensation for the vast expence she has been put to in this war.

As there is advice of some French men of war going for the East Indies, some more ships of the line are ordered to sail thither after admiral Boscawen.

The Hector man of war is ordered to sail for Virginia, in order to cruise on that station, to intercept the enemy's privateers, who cruise on the capes of that place; and the Virginia merchantment are preparing to join her, and take the benefit of her convoy.

To morrow several of the Duke's servants set out for Harwich, and his Royal Highness will follow as soon as the wind is favourable to carry him to Holland.

There is advice, that the French are equipping in their several ports, all the men, and sloops of war they can muster up with all expedition, which, it is said, are intended for retaking Cape-Breton; on which account we hear, that a Reinforcement is ordered by the admiralty, to those men of war order'd thither under the command of admiral Smith.

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