

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, July 20, 1748.

PARIS, April 19.

THE king will go to the army, and will carry with him three marshals of France, and a half; that is to say, the count de Clermont, Prince, the marshal Noailles, and the marshal Clemont Tonnerre; some say, that this is an argument of the operations of war will continue, but wiser people believe, that the many generals may contribute to parade, war is best conducted by a few. In short, it is expected that his majesty has an inclination to finish the war with solemnity, and to declare the peace at the head of the army, with all the circumstances of joy possible; but, however that may be, there is no doubt that this event will be most welcome here, where the weight of taxes is so heavily felt, that the parliament has told the king in plain terms, That the prerogative of the most absolute prince must be bounded by the indigence of his people.

WHITE HALL, April 26.

On the 24th instant, late in the evening, Mr. Thompson, one of his majesty's messengers, arrived at his grace the duke of Newcastle's office, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, with the instrument of preliminary articles for a general pacification, signed at Aix la Chapelle, by the ministers plenipotentiaries of his majesty the king of Great Britain, the most christian king, and the states general of the United Provinces.

Madrid, April 8. They write from Valencia, that the earthquake which happened there on the 23d of last month, was very terrible, and that some thousands of persons were buried under the ruins of a great number of houses, churches and convents. 'Tis said that it was likewise felt in the kingdom of Murcia.

Breda, April 25. They are actually preparing to blow up the fine fortifications of Bergen op zoom, where there is a strong garrison, as well as at Antwerp.

Liege, April 26. Since the 23d the French have advanced but very slowly in their approaches before Maastricht, the rainy weather having much retarded them, as well as increased the sickness. They confess to have lost, between killed and wounded, from the 18th to the 25th instant, 3000 men, and above that number are gone into the hospitals of Tongres, Herthal, and the suburbs of the town.

L O N D O N,

April 23. Private letters by the last Dutch mail mention, that the passage of the vessels down the Meuse is entirely stop'd by the French, so that the merchants can have no goods that way.

Letters from some parts of France say, that the greatest part of that wide kingdom is in much distress, on account of the heaviness of the taxes, and the scarcity of provisions, which are so dear as hardly to be purchased with any money; We are assured these advices are authentic.

A letter from Aix la Chapelle mention, that the earl of Sandwich and count de St. Severin, treat one another with such extraordinary testimonies of esteem, and appearance of civility, that great hopes of the success of the conferences are formed from that circumstance only.

April 26. They write from Aix la Chapelle, that the hall intended for the holding the conferences will have five doors, in order to prevent any frivolous ceremonies or debates among the ministers, with regard to rank, or precedency, in making their entrances and exits; one of which doors is for the Imperial plenipotentiary, one for the French, and another for the Spanish ministers, those of England and Holland are to enter at the same door; and the fifth is designed for the ministers from the king of Sardinia, republic of Genoa, and the duke of Modena.

The preliminary articles were sign'd at Aix la Chapelle last Thursday, by the British, French and Dutch ministers; the king of Sardinia 'tis said has also accepted them; the French king engages for the king of Spain, that he shall accept also; but the Emperor's queen's minister has protested against them.

Lieut. Wake of the London privateer, capt. Joseph Barker commander, brought into Portsmouth last Saturday, the marquis de Tournay, a French prize of about 500 tons, 20 guns, and 180 sailors, besides soldiers, bound from Bourdeaux to Canada, laden with naval stores and bale goods; which capt. Barker took the 8th instant, in Lat. 46. 30. Long. 11. 10. west. The marquis de Tournay was under convoy of a French frigate of 21 guns, bound the same voyage, who in the engagement sheer'd off.

The Tygress, a new privateer of 12 carriage guns, 9 pounders, and a small English prize she had taken, is taken by the Thetis man of war, capt. Barker, and brought into Kinsale.

Extract of a letter from Aix la Chapelle, April 20.

The chief points in the preliminaries said to be agreed on are these; — France shall in a limited time, and upon certain reasonable conditions, restore to the queen of Hungary all that has been taken from her in the Low Countries. — The same crown shall restore to the States General of the United Provinces, all such territories and fortresses as are in her possession, and belong to the republic — She shall likewise restore to his Sardinian majesty, the dutchy of Savoy and the county of Nice. — The prince last mentioned, shall have a considerable part of the dutchy of Milan. — An establishment shall be formed for Don Philip, out of the dutchies of Parma and Placentia. — Great Britain and France shall mutually restore the places taken from each other during the war. — The crown of Spain shall settle all points in dispute in America, so as to take away every occasion of debate. — It is not possible to ascertain positively the truth of these articles; but at present every body seems to agree here, that these are the capital points in the plan."

It is said that all enterprizes already begun are, by the preliminary articles of peace, permitted to be carried on for some months, but that no new hostilities shall be commenced from the date of said preliminaries.

April 28. We hear that sloop are ordered to be got ready to carry to the East and West Indies, the news of the preliminaries of a peace being sign'd; and that the time fixed for the hostilities to cease in those parts, is six months in the former, and three in the latter.

We hear that a bounty of six pence per pound will be allowed on all indigo made, to a certain standard, in the British plantations in America, and imported under proper regulations directly into Great Britain, from the place of its growth.

The report of the siege of Maastricht being raised, was premature, as we are well assured, that the cessation of arms was not to take place till that town was reduced; Marshal Saxe having taken a Resolution, as he has set down before it, not to rise till he had it in his possession, whence it is conjectured, that the next mail will bring us an account that the place is surrendered.

The king of Prussia, we hear, in regard to the preservation of the Dutch Barrier Towns, offered, that in case the French did not desist, to join the Russians with 50,000 men, which has greatly contributed to a peace.

We are assured that the preliminaries for a peace will be laid before the house of Commons to-morrow or Monday.

Yesterday morning lieut. Harrison came express from his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, who, we hear, has brought advice, that a cessation of arms is agreed on, between his Britannic majesty and the most Christian king.

We hear that the Parliament will rise on Thursday the 5th of May; and that his majesty will set out for Holland the Saturday following.

We hear his royal highness the Duke, has sent lord George Sackville to marshal Saxe, on a commission of great importance.

Extract of a letter from a Swiss officer in the French camp near Maastricht, to his brother in Paris, April 29.

I write this in a most uncomfortable posture, stowed in between a cart load of brave fellows without legs or arms, bound to the hospital, which will be pretty well fill'd by last night's

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