

and that all these assurances do not quiet his mind in relation to what may happen in future; in short, this prince apprehends that the progress of the arms of France will occasion fresh quarrels and disturbances. The king of Prussia is perfectly well assured, that the great point the ministry of Versailles have in view, is to push their conquests upon the Dutch, and to deprive as much as in them lies, the empress queen of all hopes of recovering the Low Countries by force of arms, and to oblige her to renounce them absolutely, in order to preserve her dominions in Italy. This has been always the system of the Austrian party, which is in the council of Versailles, and which is now the prevailing party there; because, besides that this plan will secure an establishment for Don Philip, it will also furnish the means of recovering Cape-Breton, by giving Ostend to England in lieu thereof.

L O N D O N, May 24.

*A Letter from Mr. Corbett, Secretary to the Admiralty, to the Merchants of this City, dated at the Admiralty-Office, Friday, May 20.*

"I am commanded by my lords commissioners of the admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the trading part of his majesty's subjects, that his majesty's proclamation being publish'd for a cessation of arms between us and France, they gave immediate orders to discharge the regulating captains; to break up the pressing upon the Thames, and about the city of London; and called in all the tenders and hired ships employed in that service, in order to pay them off.

But as their lordships cannot but think it necessary, in regard to our being still in war with Spain, and not under a certainty of a peace with France, his majesty's ships, which are designed to serve at sea, should have their full complement of men on board, and are to be ready to obey any orders they may receive for that purpose; their lordships have continued to the captains of those ships their power to press seamen, if they cannot get their ships manned by volunteers; but with this restriction, that they are only to press for their own ships, until they have made up their complements, and no longer.

And as it is not doubted, but that the ships of the squadrons, under the command of sir Peter Warren, and vice admiral Hawke, will want many men when they return into port, their lordships have ordered the captains of his majesty's ships the *Ruffel*, *Jersey*, and *Diamond*, arrived from the Mediterranean, to be reserved (after three weeks leave) to help towards manning those ships, and others wanting men, and they will do the like with such other ships as shall come home from foreign parts, whose seamen have wages enough due to them to secure their not running away."

From the London EVENING POST, May 21, 1748.

S I R,

While this peaceful War, or hostile Peace, continues betwixt France and us, at the same Time that there is open War betwixt us and Spain, I am terribly afraid of some Consequences, which I doubt never came into the heads of our sagacious Pacificators.

I am afraid there may be some *Finesse*, some Collusion in this affair, betwixt the two Chiefs of the House of Bourbon: And if this should be the Case, may not the half Peace with France be protracted for a convenient Time, and Spain, under various Pretences, put off her Accession to the Preliminaries?—And what then? It may be ask'd, Who will suffer by that?—I very much fear, the Trade of Great Britain: For may not the French Privateers take out Spanish Commissions? May not the Treasures of America be brought home on French Bottoms? for the mutual Benefit of both Crowns?

Much of the Harm to be apprehended from such Means might indeed be prevented, if our Men of War and Privateers were to be very strict and scrupulous in all their Searches. But this would so endanger the new Friendship, that I see little Room to believe they will have any such Instructions.

Many wise Persons have been all along of opinion, that a separate Peace with either France or Spain has not been desirable since the War began; because either of those Powers might do the Business of both by Sea, and supply those Sinevus of War which the Hostilities with both have hitherto in a great Measure cut off.—But every Fool could perceive, who had heard a Word about Trade, that if it was necessary for us to fall in Love with one of those Powers, it would be most ridiculous to fix our Affections, by way of Preference, on France.

We have heard of Swedish Men of War, built for the Service of France, and actually paid for: What can now hinder their safe Arrival at Brest, or even the Increase of their Num-

ber, which is already said to be twelve? The Prints likewise inform us, that during this Suspension the French are repairing and Augmenting the Fortifications in, and about Maastricht. What can hinder their keeping Possession of them; in case the Conferences should at last break off ineffectually? Add to all this, the Exportation of Corn, mentioned in your last. And may not the Enemy some Months hence renew the Rapture, strengthen'd by Land, by Sea, in his Magazines, in his Treasury, and in all respects grown more formidable than when he GRANTED US the Suspension?

By the late act of parliament to regulate court martials in the sea service, there is a clause added, that when any ship in his majesty's navy shall be taken by the enemy, the officers and seamen belonging to the said ship, shall be in full pay all the time that they are prisoners, unless they behaved with cowardise, or refused to do their duty.

Yesterday in the afternoon a waggon laden with money, taken out of the *Glorioso*, Prize of the *Russel* man of war, was brought to the Bank in Threadneedle street from Portsmouth, under a strong guard of the ship's crew.

Letters from Paris inform us of an insurrection at Bourdeaux, occasion'd by the dearth of bread, which sold for seven sols a pound; but they add, that the price would soon fall, M. Paris de Montmartle having engaged to import corn from England to the value of eight million of livres, during the suspension of arms: And as several other eminent merchants were very alert in the same way of trade, they doubted not to have grain enough to keep the people quiet, and to fill the king's magazines too; after which they will be ready for a new dance, in case they have sense and resolution enough not to conclude a definitive treaty upon a rotten, delusive basis.

B O S T O N.

*Extract of a Letter from Kingston, in Jamaica, dated July 13, 1748.*

"We received advice last night, that our men of war has met with the Spanish galleons, and had taken three of them and the two men of war that convoy'd them; and were in chase of the other nine galleons, and 'tis presumed they are taken also.

*Extract of two Letters from an Officer on board his majesty's ship Invincible, to a Gentleman in this Town.*

Madeira, June 22, 1748.

"The French have suffer'd very much lately in their royal navy; and I make no doubt if the war was to continue, we should have every ship out of either Brest or Rochfort.—I can take upon me to assure you our sea affairs have been more attended to lately, and the French have been so watch'd that they cannot stir. The channel fleet under the command of sir Peter Warren to the westward consists of fifty-three men of war; and the bay of Biscay is never without twenty ships of the line, in two squadrons, besides frigates. We have been cruising this month off the Island of Palma: but we are now arrived at Madeira, having left several ships to cruize among the Canaries:—As soon as we have taken in wine and water, we are to cruize another month, and then return to England, where we shall lay up our guns to rust, and break our useless pikes and swords; when the *Invincible* will be reduc'd to a guard ship.—I am much concern'd at giving up Cape-Breton; it's given up to save Holland."

Madeira, June 26, 1748.

"Sir Peter Warren is very well, as is also capt. Lloyd, who is our commander.—We have on board the *Invincible* six lieutenants, and 735 men.—It is reported, when Cape-Breton is to be deliver'd up, the garrison is to be removed to Canso and Chebucto; and a strong fort to be built at each place.—I cannot omit mentioning a compliment paid to sir Peter Warren, by his royal Highness the prince of Wales, upon his waiting on the prince, before he went down to command the fleet.—After his highness had wish'd him all imaginable success, he ask'd sir Peter, what ship he hoisted his flag in; upon being told, it was the *Invincible*, his royal highness said, she would be *Invincible* if sir Peter Warren went in her."

*An Extract of a Letter from Capt. Isaac Freeman, Commander of the Bethel Frigate, to his Owners in this Town, dated at St John's, in Newfoundland, August 1, 1748.*

"My last was from Leghorn of the 9th of April, to which I refer you.—I have now to add, that we sail'd from thence the next day, and on the 16th took the *St. Joseph*, a polacco from Salonica for Marseilles, loaded with tobacco, which we carried with us to Cagliari, and had her condemn'd at Port Mahon; afterwards sold her for 5000 dollars."

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