

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

WEDNESDAY, September 28, 1748.

MADRID, June 27.



OUR politicians rack their brains to discover the conditions of the peace, and as a commissary has just been sent to Oran, to take an account of the ammunition, provisions, and other stores in that place, they infer that the court is going to give up that town and its forts to the English, in exchange for Gibraltar. However, this is certain, that we are making such provisions for peace as very plainly declare, that the terms are thoroughly settled, and those who a fortnight ago were employed in disposing every thing so as to recruit the army of the royal infant to 40000 men, are now framing a plan of reform, by which it is said 60000 of our troops will be reduced, or at least the sums saved that would pay this number, for it is very well known that tho' our muster rolls are always compleat, yet most of our corps are very defective, those of the guards not excepted.

*Extrait of a Letter from Brussels, July 3.*

“ Marshal Lowendahl went last monday to the castle of Ter-Vuren, where he continued in close conference with marshal Saxe, as it some new military operations were on the anvil: and it's observed, that within these 24 hours expresses have been dispatched to Maestricht, Namur, Louvain, and other places. Various conjectures are formed about their dispatches; but most people agree in opinion, that France will not evacuate any of her new conquests 'til she is informed that the march of the Russian troops is countermanded. Moreover, the court has sent orders to marshal Saxe not to grant passports to any officers but such as may have permission from the king himself to quit the army; and all chiefs and commanders of regiments are forbid, upon pain of being cashier'd, to grant furlows to any soldiers.”

*Extrait of a Letter from Aix la Chapelle, July 5.*

“ The scruple of Spain with regard to the preliminaries, was not so much upon the article of the reversion of the duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guastalla, as upon the article whereby the English require certain rights and privileges in the West India trade. But this scruple has been removed by the French ministry, who have promised an equivalent to which England will not be averse.”

*Extrait of a Letter from an intelligent Person at the Hague, dated July 5.*

“ Tho' the court of Madrid has not acceded to the preliminary articles in so unrestrained a manner as the other contracting powers have done, there is the utmost reason to hope, that the difficulties raised by the marquis de Soto Mayor in relation to certain articles at the signing of the preliminaries, will be pretty easily removed. There is not at present any doubt but that we shall have a peace very speedily, and almost without conferences, since we are assured, that what is necessary to be added to the preliminaries has been already done at Versailles, at London, at the Hague, and at Vienna, in the most cordial and reasonable manner. 'Tis now commonly said, that the respective ministers of these courts act, which is strange, with the greatest sincerity; But the wonder ceases, when its known that hard necessity has obliged them to be in earnest; and those people who have the justest way of thinking, are absolutely of opinion, that France would not so precipitately have resolved to sign preliminary articles which have the appearance of being so greatly disadvantageous to her, but because she perceived the impossibility there was of continuing the war with success, and that her ministry did not consent to such a peace till after they had taken measures to enable the French court to begin the war again as soon as convenient opportunity offers: But, in short, nothing so much contributed to so speedy coming into signing the preliminaries by the French, as the project the English had formed of ruining all their establishments in the West Indies. Of this the court of Versailles was well informed, and was excessively apprehensive of the execution; nay, 'tis

even now positively reported at Bourdeaux, and there are letters upon which this rumour is founded, that Martineco and St. Domingo have been plunder'd and ruined by the English.”

*Extrait of a Letter from a Minister at the Hague, dated July 23.*

“ The requisitorial letters from the States General for the passage of the Russian troops through the circle of Westphalia, arrived at Munster the 13th instant: But according to some letters which have been received from a general officer who has a considerable command in that army, it seems very probable that these troops will remain where they are at present. The same letters intimate, that part of them will take their winter quarters in Bohemia, and other parts in the Upper Palatinate, at the expence of their High Mightinesses; and that the intention of the Empress Queen is, to endeavour with the court of Turin, to obtain what she thinks a reasonable peace with France, and in case the ministry of Versailles will not consent to such a one as the courts of Vienna and Turin shall judge so, then to make use of these troops in order the more easily to gain that point. Our last letters from the Netherlands hold us in a peace in relation to the restitution of that country: People have a long time flatter'd themselves, that this would have been immediately effected; but according to all the advices which we have lately received from thence, it does not yet appear to be very near; the French, on the contrary, are making dispositions which do not denote a speedy departure.”

“ If the republic of Genoa is to be congratulated upon being delivered from the unhappy situation it was in, there is reason also to cordole with it upon taking into consideration that wherein it is at present: Its coffers being exhausted: The credit of the bank of St. George ruin'd to all intents and purposes: Its commerce is extremely diminish'd by the retreat of many foreign merchants, who supported the best branches thereof: Its manufactures of velvet and paper are now got partly into the hands of the inhabitants of the little republic of Lucca, which will thereby be put into a flourishing condition, and partly into those of the merchants of Leghorn, who have drawn away the best workmen from Genoa, and establish'd in the grand dutchy a great number of manufactures of velvet, paper, and other merchandize, which were heretofore principally fabricated in Genoa; and these evils, which are scarcely to be remedied, the Genoese have brought upon themselves, by too precipitately entering into a war which they were not under an absolute necessity of doing.”

*From the LONDON GAZETTE.*

*Hague, July 12.* In Friesland the confusion and disorders are greater than ever, inso much, that the deputies to the states from the quarters of Ostergow, had thoughts of resigning their commissions; but the prince of Orange being apprized of their intention, has sent to them to desire that they would by no means take this step, as it might be productive of the worst consequences.

*Hague, July 16.* General Grevestein is come back from Friesland without having been able to do any thing towards settling the disorders in that province. It is thought that the prince stadtholder will soon send a deputation thither. The states of Holland have been deliberating ever since last Friday on the ways and means for making good the deficiency occasioned in their revenue, by the abolition of the imposts. The skippers and populace at Tergau, pretending that by the abolition of the imposts in this province, they are to be exempted from contributing any thing at all to the public revenue, have refused to pay the passage money, the Tolls for opening the sluices, and other duties, to which all vessels are subject; it has been found necessary to send a detachment of the guards to curb their insolence, and bring them to reason. Notwithstanding the declaration of the deputies of the council of Guelderland, that they would continue their taxes upon the old footing, the people are again in motion every where in that province, and refuse to pay all manner of taxes or duties; even those