

age brought him at his own house, by a gentleman from prince. — On Tuesday Dr. Mortimer went to Sir Hans's, the prince's desire, a little before twelve, in order to be introduced at their royal highnesses' arrival; and receiving them the prince had the honour to kiss the hands of both, when they alighted out of the coach. The prince being come into the hall, and the doctor with great courtesy and affability, there he was come to put himself and the princess entirely under his command and direction, laying aside all ceremony; and therefore commanded the doctor to go up the great stairs before him, which he did, and conducted their royal highnesses into the room where Sir Hans was sitting. The prince took a chair, and sat down by the good gentleman some time, when he expressed the great esteem and value he had personally for him, and how much the learned world was obliged to him for his having collected such a vast library of curious books, and such immense treasures of the valuable and instructive productions of nature and art. Sir Hans's house forms a square of above 100 feet each side, inclosing a court; and three front rooms had tables set along the middle, which were spread over with drawers, filled with all sorts of precious stones in their natural beds, or mine, as they are found in the earth; except the first, which contained stones formed in animals, which are so many diseased in the creatures that bear them; as the most beautiful pearls, which are but warts in the shell fish; the bezoar's concretions in the stomach; and stones generated in the kidneys and bladder, or which men wonderfully know the effects: But the earth in her bosom generates the verdant emerald, the purple amethyst, the golden topaz, the azure sapphire, the crimson garnet, the scarlet ruby, the brilliant diamond, the glowing opal, and all the painted varieties that Flora herself might wish to be deck'd with: Here the most magnificent vessels of cornelian, onyx, fardonyx, and jasper, delighted the eye, and raised the mind to praise the great creator of all things. — When their royal highnesses had view'd one room, and went into another, the scene was shifted; for when they returned, the same tables were covered for a second course with all sorts of jewels, polish'd and set after the modern fashion; or with gems carv'd or engrav'd, the stately and instructive remains of antiquity: For the third course the tables were spread with gold and silver ores, with the most precious and remarkable ornaments used in the habits of men, from Siberia to the cape of Good Hope, and from Japan to Peru; and with both ancient and modern coins and medals in gold and silver, the lasting monuments of historical facts; as those of a Prusias, king of Bithynia, who betray'd his allies; of an Alexander, who, mad with ambition, over ran and invaded his neighbours; of a Caesar, who enslaved his country to satisfy his own pride; of a Titus, the delight of mankind; of a pope Gregory XIII, recording on a silver medal his blind zeal for the cause of religion, in perpetuating thereon the massacre of the protestants in France; as did Charles IX, the reigning king in that country; here may be seen the coins of a king of England, crown'd at Paris; a medal representing France and pain, striving which should first pay their obedience to Britannia; others shewing the effect of popular rage, when overmuch oppress'd by their superiors, as in the case of the De Witts in Holland; the happy deliverance of Britain, by the arrival of King William; the glorious exploits of a Duke of Marlborough; and the happy arrival of the present illustrious royal family amongst us. — The gallery, 110 feet in length, presented a most surprizing prospect; the most beautiful corals, crystals, and figured stones, the most brilliant butterflies, and other insects; shells painted with as great variety as the precious stones, and feathers of birds vying with gems: Here the remains of the antediluvian world excited the awful ideas of that great catastrophe, evident testimonies of the truth of Moses's history; the variety of animals shew us the beauty of all parts of the creation. — Then a noble visita presented itself thro' several rooms filled with books, among these many hundred volumes of dried plants; a room full of choice and valuable manuscripts; the noble present sent by the present French king to Sir Hans of his collections of paintings, medals, statues, palaces, &c. in 25 large Atlas volumes; besides other things too many to mention here. — Below stairs some rooms are filled with the curious and venerable antiquities of Egypt, Greece, Hetruria, Rome, Britain, and even America; others with large animals preserved in the skin; the great salon lined on every side with bottles filled with spirits, containing various animals. The halls are adorned with the horns of diverse creatures, as the double-horn'd rhinoceros of Africa, the fossil deer's horns from Ireland, nine feet wide; and with weapons of different countries, among which it appears.

that butcherly weapon the bayonet. Fifty volumes in folio would scarce suffice to contain a detail of this immense museum, consisting of above 200,000 articles. — Their royal highnesses were not wanting in expressing their satisfaction and pleasure, at seeing a collection which surpass'd all the notions or ideas they had formed from even the most favourable accounts of it. The prince on this occasion shew'd his great reading and most happy memory; for in such a multiplicity, such a variety of the productions of nature and art; upon any thing being shewn him he had not seen before, he was ready in recollecting where he had read of it; and upon viewing the antique and modern medals, he made so many judicious remarks, that he appeared to be a perfect master of history and chronology: He express'd the great pleasure it gave him to see so magnificent a collection in England, esteeming it an ornament to the nation; and expressed his sentiments, how much it must conduce to the benefit of learning, and how great an honour will be added to Britain, to establish it for public use to the latest posterity.

Sept. 6 They write from Paris, that the last courier which arrived from Aix la Chapelle deliver'd his packet into the king's own hand; and that after perusing it alone in his closet, his majesty sent for the marquis de Puiseux, principal secretary of state, with whom he remained in close conference upwards of three hours. The marquis seem'd in high spirits when he came from the king, and dropp'd some expressions, which gave occasion to the report, that the definitive treaty was actually signed by his majesty.

Private letters by the last Dutch mail inform us, that the States of Groeningen have resolv'd, after the example of other provinces, to confer on the staatholder the power of disposing of all employments, political and military, as they hereafter become vacant.

Sept. 8. According to some advices from Aix la Chapelle, the ministers there are making such dispositions for their convenience, as if they expected to stay there all the winter.

Extract of a Letter from Aix la Chapelle, August 20, 1748.

"The plenipotentiaries who a few days ago encamp'd upon the hill, about a mile from the city, have struck their tents, evacuated their camp, and returned into quarters, and this before any evacuation is made of the conquest of Italy or those in the Low-Countries, and before the signing of the peace, which we have been, by the public papers, made to believe would soon be effected. The writers of the Dutch Gazettes being afraid of telling any more falsities, talk no longer affirmatively upon these points. The months of July, and indeed that of August, before the end of both which, the peace was, according to the intelligence we had from them, to be signed, and the places evacuated. The places to be evacuated are now out of the question; but at present they say, it is thought these things will be brought about some time in the month of September. It is high time for them to begin to talk in a less positive strain, in order to preserve their reputation, and the faith of their Gazettes. Whatever prophetic science the ablest even of the ministers plenipotentiary may be possess'd of, there is none of them can positively say when the peace will be signed, or whether the evacuations will be made this year or the next. It is true, as a respectable minister the other day said, that in a short time the clouds, which render these matters obscure, will probably be dissipated, and that we shall be able by the middle of next month to see more clearly, and know what to depend on; but this is far from being certain and absolute. And though the plenipotentiaries every day eat, drink, dance and play together, yet the work of the general pacification, does not advance a jot more for it, nor does it prevent the levy of men, both for land and sea, which France is diligently making, nor hinder the large convoys of ammunition and provision which are sending to Bergen-op-zoom and Maastricht, no more than it does the Austrians from raising recruits in such a manner as surprizes every body. Nevertheless, the signing the preliminaries was generally looked upon as a certain and infallible prelude to the signing of the peace itself."

It is said that thirteen regiments of foot and marines are soon to be discharged.

#### ANNAPOLIS.

Lately died in Kent County Mr. George Wilson, a Gentleman to well esteem'd in the County where he lived, that they made choice of him in many successive Elections, to represent them in Assembly; he being one of the oldest Members in the late House.

On the 6th Instant died in Somerset County Capt. Matthias [unclear] of the late Hon. Levin Gale, Esq; a Gentleman of great merit.