

*extract of a letter from Aix la Chapelle, dated Sept. 9.*

According to the general discourse of the plenipotentiaries themselves, and of all who depend upon them, every thing here goes on as well as can be wished, and there is no room of doubt to be made, that the definitive treaty will be speedily signed and declared. As every body wishes the news may be well founded, so we need not wonder that it gains credit in the world, and is generally received as an indisputable truth, which is a very good reason for its finding a place in all the gazettes; but notwithstanding this, there is some occasion to doubt whether all those who seem to believe are in earnest; and that I may not appear to advance a thing absolutely without foundation, I must put you in mind, that whatever may become of the conquests made from the republic, few people seem to entertain any doubt that the French troops will spend the greater part of the winter in the countries that are to be restored to the empress's Queen, which seems not very reconcilable to this notion of a speedy peace, if that be taken in the general acceptance of the word; I mean for a general and solid peace, in which, without distinction, all the parties engaged in the war shall be included.

But besides this, we very well know that there are a variety of things of some consequence, which, as far as one can learn, though often canvassed, are not yet settled; and some new difficulties there are also, which have been talked of only, and not canvassed. I will begin with these. It is very confidently reported, that tho' the court of Petersburg is very well satisfied with the usage her auxiliaries have met with, the care that has been taken in providing for them on their march, as well as the reasons that have been assigned for suspending it; yet they by no means approve the prospect of marching them directly home again through Poland, but, on the contrary, have represented against it as a step that may be very fatal to that fine corps, which cannot but have suffered considerably by the fatigues of so long and to hally a march, at the worst season of the year; which therefore seems to require time for them to repose and recover themselves in quarters of refreshment. If this demand should be complied with, and these auxiliaries should have winter quarters assigned them in Bohemia and Moravia, it may produce a demand of some equivalent from the court of Vienna; and indeed we have heard of something like a proposition upon this head already; still this is not all, even in reference to these troops; for if this point should be adjusted, it will not be very reconcilable to the convention signed here on the 2d of last month, and consequently may retard the reduction of the French forces, which would be not at all agreeable to that court, and till less to many of its neighbours.

The arrival of M. du Theil was expected with as much impatience lately, as that of M. de St. Severin, at the beginning of these negotiations; but now he is arrived, we are well formed, that amongst other instructions he has brought one that does not seem extremely well calculated to hasten things to a conclusion. In short he has made a very serious comment of the proceedings in Corsica, as not at all reconcilable, either to the spirit, or the letter of the preliminaries, and which, as he asserts, cannot be justified from any thing that happened on the side of France or her allies. Now it seems requisite that these points should be terminated, previous to the conclusion of the definitive treaty: nor would it much concern our opinion, even if what some whisper about should be fully true. That this great work has not only been settled between certain powers, but even been signed, since this treaty, and signing must be considered as provisionally only; not as definitive.

With regard to the affairs in Italy, it is pretty evident that there are still some things which stand in need of being adjusted, for though there is nothing clearer than that the Austrians are ready to evacuate the countries assigned for the establishment of Don Philip; yet with respect to the uncancelled part of the treaty of Worms, we have not as yet heard that a nod has been so much as concerted for putting it in execution, and yet executed it must be before we have any definitive peace; and some talk there is no inserting a clause of parity in reference to these, as well as other cessions; to report which we are told that the Chevalier d'Osorio is on his way hither from Hanover.

It would not be exceedingly difficult to increase this list of objections; but for the present we will rest it here, and content to assign these as the causes of our doubts whether things are quite so forward as they are supposed to be. There indeed one piece of news lately arrived here, which if true

would comfort us under all difficulties; and it is this, that they look upon the peace as made at Vienna, and are very positive that it will be published by the end of October; now I cannot but own that I have a good opinion of the foresight of the politicians in that city, and provided I could be sure they would not alter their minds, it would notwithstanding all I have advanced, induce me to credit our prophets here at Aix la Chapelle, though even in that case they are a little mistaken, since this sets the peace six weeks farther back than the terms which they thought fit to assign it."

Sept. 12. Yesterday orders were given for taking into pay several artificers that have been lately discharged from his majesty's yards, to fit out, with all expedition, some ships that were paid off.

The same day the Bedford, of 80 guns, and the New-Yar-mouth, of 64 guns, were put in commission.

Sept. 15. Notwithstanding the many ships of war that have lately been discharged, and the men paid off, there are still in commission Six Ninety-gun ships; Twelve of Eighty guns; Fourteen of Seventy guns; Twenty of Sixty guns; Nineteen of Fifty guns; Eleven of Forty guns; and Eighteen of Twenty guns; besides sloops and tenders.

Private letters from several parts of Italy say, that a new treaty is on foot between the courts of France and Spain, and the republic of Genoa, for maintaining the latter in a state of independence, for the security of which, subsidies are to be granted to that state, which may enable her to perfect the fortresses that are already begun in different parts of her dominions, and to keep on foot a body of 10,000 regular troops in time of peace. It is also said, that some other Italian states will be invited to accede to this alliance.

Advices from Bourdeaux say, that such plenty of all things arrives there, as to make them forget the miseries they have suffered. The port is so full of foreign vessels, that lodgings are very difficult to be got in town. They write the same thing from different parts of France.

*Extract of a letter from Leghorn.*

"It is currently reported here, that the Algerines have declared war against France."

It is said the Spaniards have not yet acquiesced with the articles of the general peace; and, according to some accounts from Madrid and Cadiz, the English ships were not permitted to land the goods of that nation.

And we are informed, that there are letters in town to several merchants, advising, that an English ship has been seized at Bilbao, and her rudder taken off; and that a particular order was published concerning the exportation of wines; so that the behaviour of the Spanish nation seems at present very mysterious.

The following Lines are put on a Tomb at Arlington, near Paris.

Here lies,  
Two Grand mothers, with their two Grand-daughters;  
Two Husbands, with their two Wives;  
Two Fathers, with their two Daughters;  
Two Mothers, with their two Sons;  
Two Maidens, with their two Mothers;  
Two Sisters, with their two Brothers;  
Yet but six Corpses in all lie buried here,  
All born Legitimate,—from Incest clear.

Sept. 20. On Thursday night one of his majesty's messengers arrived at his grace the duke of Bedford's office, Whitehall, express from lord Sandwich at Aix la Chapelle, and brought with him, for the approbation of this court, a copy of a plan for a general pacification; copies of which have likewise been sent away express from Aix to all the courts interested in the present war, for their respective approbations.

The king of Sardinia's marriage with the duchess dowager of Gualfalia, is thought to have had some influence over the transactions at Aix la Chapelle; as that princess's estate makes some part of the settlement intended for Don Philip. This lady will be the king's fourth wife.

Sept. 22. It is said that his Prussian majesty will make a tour so Goerde, to pay a visit to his Britannic majesty.

On Thursday there was a report, that all the officers were ordered to their posts in Great Britain and Ireland; and those orders were given in consequence of some advices received from the court of Madrid.

We hear from Paris, that large remittances are daily expected from Holland, to pay the Dutch prisoners debts; and the officers will afterwards have passes to return home.

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