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P A R I S, March 14.

Very deplorable accident fell out on Friday and Sunday last, at the parish church of St. Eustace. As a great number of children attend constantly thrice a week there, in order to be instructed in the religion they profess, twelve of them were seized all on a sudden with such violent convulsions, that they were obliged to be conveyed away forthwith to the curate's house, where two of them died in the most agonizing pain.

The curate likewise himself was seized so violently with the same disorder, that a surgeon was immediately sent for, who bled him five times successively.

Though nobody as yet can rightly account for this unhappy disaster, yet it is generally conjectur'd, that it must proceed from a pestilential vapour that diffused itself from some dead bodies that were putrified, and lay in a vault under the church, which was opened some few days ago, in order to their removal to some other place.

Berlin, March 18. Yesterday the king gave audience to count Kayserling and to M. De Gros, ministers plenipotentiary of Russia; the former of whom took his leave of his majesty, and the latter presented his credentials. The following is the exposition of the motives that have determined the king to keep his army in readiness to march on the first warning.

The king considering peace and union among the princes of Europe as the greatest happiness they can aspire to, his majesty greatly rejoiced to see the foundations thereof laid at Aix la Chapelle, by the contracting parties in the late treaty of peace.

There was nothing wanting in order to render this happiness universal, but the disposition of the clouds which seemed to be gathering in the North. The king laboured as effectually as he possibly could to prevent the effects thereof.

Nevertheless those clouds are still lowering, and give reason to fear that they may, this approaching Spring, be productive of some event capable of disturbing the tranquillity of the north, unless the wisdom of divine providence preserve Europe from this disaster.

The extraordinary movements made in the dominions of some neighbouring powers, the armaments and preparations carried on there, sufficiently intimate that those powers are filled with the same apprehensions as the king, in regard to the interruption of the public tranquillity.

It becomes the prudence of sovereigns when they foresee events that may in their consequences influence the tranquillity of their dominions, and of their subjects, to take long beforehand the necessary precautions against a sudden surprize.

Such then is the motive which has made the king judge it necessary that he should likewise make dispositions for putting his army in a condition to act, in order to keep at a distance from his dominions all the unforeseen dangers that might disturb the repose of his faithful subjects.

Intentions so upright ought to convince every one, that the tranquillity of his neighbours is not less dear to him than his own; and the king has in view no object more satisfactory, than to cultivate invariably with them a mutual friendship and good understanding. Wherefore, that none may be ignorant of his true sentiments, his majesty has imparted them to all his ministers at foreign courts, with orders to lay the same before them.

All the foreign ministers here have dispatched couriers to their respective courts, with copies of the above declaration. It is in consequence of the motives set forth therein, that all the king's troops have received strict orders to hold themselves in readiness to march by the beginning of May. Some of them are already in motion: and we are assured, that on the 20th of their quarters,

in order to form the intended camps in Silesia, and Prussia, which last is to be the strongest, and will be commanded by field marshal Keith. We go on with the new levies, notwithstanding the king has already above 150,000 men on foot, well provided with all necessaries. We are likewise repairing and augmenting all the fortifications on the coast of Romenia. After all, it is hoped that these precautions will answer the end, for which they are designed, by effectually contributing to keep peace in the North. And as Russia has declared that she arm: with no other view; as Sweden prepares for war only for her own defence; as Denmark's armaments are likewise calculated to preserve peace in the North, and the court of Vienna will join Russia with the same laudable design; would it not be a merry farce to see them all go to loggerheads with such honest upright intentions? If they do, we must conclude they all meant well, but mistook one another's meaning.

L O N D O N.

March 11. By some private letters we have advice, that colonel York, in the conferences that he has had with the marquis de Pusieux, since his residence at Paris, having mentioned the affairs of the North, and the troubles which, if not timely regarded, would probably break out on or before the death of the king of Sweden; that minister vouchsafed to deliver his sentiments of the matter in the following general and expressive terms: That indeed he could not but acknowledge there was the appearance of an approaching rupture in the North; which did not a little displease his most excellent majesty, who was sincerely desirous of seeing peace reign long, uninterrupted and universally in Europe: That future events being in the hands of Providence, time only could discover, whether that part of Europe was really destined for the renewal of broils, and the calamities of war; to ward off which, his majesty would neglect no means in his power: But that in case all his pains and endeavours should prove fruitless, and his majesty be called upon to fulfil his engagements with Sweden, it was, from his majesty's well known character, needless to inform him (Colonel York) that he must answer the demand with the exactness and punctuality, which the execution of solemn treaties requires.

We hear that the last courier which set out for Madrid, carried Mr. Keene the copy of a memorial, which was lately presented by the South sea company to one of the secretaries of state; by which that company renews its pretensions on the crown of Spain, of 1,300,000 l. sterling; and also desires to know when they are to reap the benefit granted them by the 16th article of the definitive treaty, in respect to the four years non enjoyment of the permission ship.

March 14. As there appears at present a warm and glorious spirit of promoting our fisheries that have been so long neglected, there is very little reason to doubt that it will be attended with all imaginable success, as all ranks and degrees of people are interested in the event, and will feel the advantages that must certainly arise from prosecuting them with vigour and application; inasmuch as the produce of all fish sold to foreigners is the sole reward of labour, and consequently clear gains to the nation. A disposition to push to very important and so public spirited a design, does honour to those true patriots who have already discovered a willingness to embark in it; and without question, their generous examples will beget an emulation in others, to show an equal concern for what is so apparently calculated for the public benefit, and the general ease and advantage of British subjects.

March 20. Sir Edward Hawke is appointed to command the squadron destin'd to convey the transports to Nova Scotia, where he is to continue some time, to cover that infant colony.

Nova Scotia, or New Scotland, in which is comprehended that part of North America called by the French, *Acadie*, is bounded on the N. E. and N. W. by the river St. J. and S. by the Atlantic.