

THE  
 MARYLAND GAZETTE

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*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

WEDNESDAY, July 26, 1749.

RATISBON, April 15.

On the 13:th instant, about 2 in the afternoon, duke Charles of Lorraine arrived at this city, post from Vienna; and was saluted here by a discharge of all our cannon from the ramparts.

His royal highness alighted at the hotel of the prince de la Tour and Taxis, where the principal magistrate of the city sent a guard of grenadiers directly, upon the first news of his arrival, and went soon after in person to pay his compliments on that occasion, attended by all the ministers of the diet. In the evening, the principal Imperial commissary gave a very superb entertainment, and after it, a masquerade ball, which did not break up 'til the next morning. About 8 o'clock his royal highness took his leave of the company, in order to pursue his journey. Before he went, however, he made several valuable presents to the domestics of the prince de la Tour; and amongst many other things, he gave to the marshal baron de Richlieu a repeating watch richly embellished with brilliants; a golden snuff box, worth about 600 florins, to Mr. de Hurst; to the valet de chambre, a gold medal; to the head cook, and the rest of the domestics, he left 200 ucats; and 50 more for the grenadiers, who were sent to attend him.

Paris, April 18. Some important dispatches have been received at Versailles; from M. Durand, the king's minister at London, relating principally to the settlement which some private persons at Martinica have undertaken to make in the island of Tobago. Our ministry is consulting what pretensions this crown can make to the Caribbee islands in general, in order to determine the right which it has in particular to that of Tobago. The envoys of London and Sweden have frequent conferences with our ministers, which makes it imagined that some important affair is on foot between those courts and that of France; and it's assured that the Northern powers demand the mediation of England and France. The marquis de Mirepoix, who is appointed ambassador at the British court, has agreed to lodge at London in the house of the earl of Albemarle, the English ambassador here; who will also lodge at that of the marquis de Mirepoix. The marquis d'Aurillacourt, who went to London to execute a secret commission, it is said, will set out soon for the Hague. It is assured, that the marriage of one of the mesdames de France will soon be declared at court.

We learn from Rochelle, that a ship from Bourdeaux, bound for the Cape, has been cast away near the island of Raec. The cargo was 300,000 livres, out of which only 30,000 or 35000 were saved; but all the crew, except ten men, was preserved.

*Extrait of a Letter from Hamburgh, April 1.*

"The great difficulty of writing any thing with certainty from hence, has been the sole reason of that delay of which you complain; as the chief reason of my writing now is to remove that complaint, tho' I must confess it is not possible to answer, with any degree of certainty, so much as one of the questions that you have propoed. It is true that we are seated, as you express it, in the center of action, which however cannot entitle us to any extraordinary intelligence before any action is begun; but as to the advices you have received that things are much farther advanced than they were, you have certainly no reason to blame your correspondent, as the fact is undoubtedly true, not barely with respect to the remittance of money here and at Danzick, but on the score also of the uses to which this money seems to be destin'd; and if any lights I can give you will contribute to explain what from other quarters you have received, I shall communicate all I know in as succinct a manner as I can, and shall be able in a post or two to write more copiously and clearly.

some people have published, and others have pretended to believe here, in reference to their troops in Finland, as if they were in no way capable of making head against the Russians; and that consequently to suspect the Swedes of acting offensively is an absurdity, will appear in quite another light when it shall be considered, that if the Swedes had ever so great an army, they could not, as things stand now, keep them in Finland in the winter for want of magazines; and on the other hand, there is nothing at present more out of question, than that how pacific soever their intentions may be, the very utmost force they are able to bring into the field, is without any noise put upon such a foot, as that in a month's time it may be actually able to enter it.

The states of the duchy of Courland are not to be accounted either hasty or dilatory in their preparations for an election; there is no doubt of their being quick enough, if they were absolutely left to their own choice, because their country suffers, as all countries must do from their not being under the direction of it's proper constitution. In the present situation of things, they seem disposed to an election whenever pressed to it by the Poles, merely to avoid an union with that republic, in the same manner as the great duchy of Lithuania, with which they are every day threatened. But as to the election itself, it is equally impossible that they should be able to please every body, or to please themselves; the latter perhaps would be very imprudent, and as to the former, if they gratify one of their neighbours, it would offend the other; and if they oblige that other, their election will be considered as made under force; so that which ever way they move, a handle may be taken from their conduct to begin a war in the North, upon a plausible pretence.

Some there are who pretend that various schemes are in embryo, with reference to this election; and that to give time for fixing on some expedient which may pacify at least, if not satisfy, all parties, it will be put off 'til May, if not to June. Others, who have hitherto been esteemed persons of the deeper reach, look upon all this as discourse only fit to deceive some, and abuse many; for in their apprehension, this business of Courland, tho' a matter of great concern, yet is only one point out of several in which the old and new systems differ; and therefore unless all points are adjusted, it would be no purpose to suggest any expedient as to this; and whenever they are adjusted, we may venture to assert, that an expedient of this nature may without any great difficulty be found. Taking it in this light, we shall consider it as the crisis. If the states proceed immediately to an election, it is a sign that both parties are resolved to appeal to force; if it is delayed, we may conclude that the potentates whom it concerns are irresolute; but if there is so much as a tittle of truth in the rumour of a new candidate, we shall then expect to see the clouds disperse, the horizon grow clear, and the summer make as bright an appearance in the North, as it will be sure to do elsewhere.

Let me however conclude soberly and seriously, with assuring you, that tho' this last event is very possible, yet I am very far from thinking it probable, and that for a very odd reason; which is, that such as openly espouse the causes of the several parties in these disputes, are unanimous in their sentiments, that there will be no war, but that through the interposition of two powerful courts a negotiation will be set on foot for terminating all things amicably. Now if there was any thing of reality in these declarations, methinks that negotiation would have been already set on foot; and as it is very certain that neither of those courts have so much as a minister residing with the powers which it is presumed they must pacify, but the contrary are known to be in a state of hostility.