

T H E  
M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,  
Containing the freshest Advices; Foreign and Domestic.

No. 253.

WEDNESDAY, March 14, 1750.

From the Westminster Journal, October 21, 1749.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE state of affairs at the Porte, since the account of them given in our last, are thus represented in the letters from Constantinople.

The count Delleurs, ambassador from France, continues to have frequent conferences with the grand Vizir, and other ministers of the Porte. As yet his excellency has received no orders from his court relating to the Bishop of Rhodes, who is detained at Malta for being the author of, or an accomplice in, the conspiracy against the grand master and knights of that order: However, it is not doubted but he will soon hear from his court on this head; and the Ottoman ministers already flatter themselves that the dispatches will be favourable.

Since the deposing the Mufti, and some other ministers of his party, they perceive no more factions at the Porte. The grand Vizir, who is still in high favour with the grand Signor, no longer meets with any opposition to his designs, all the great officers actually in place being his creatures. This prime minister is of a pacific temper, as 'tis given out, and will avoid a war as long as he possibly can: But, on the other hand, 'tis feared that he will be obliged to give way to the humour of the Janizaries, who by all their actions discover themselves strongly bent on a rupture, with one or other of their Christian neighbours.

The news received at Constantinople, by the way of Erzerum, of the total defeat of Ibrahim Kan in Persia; has occasioned the holding of many civvies. This Ibrahim was master of the city of Tauris, and of the whole province of Aderbeitzan, where he had assembled his numerous army of upwards of 100,000 men, with which he march'd in order to give battle to that of the Shah, who gain'd a complete victory over him. The conquering Shah has since dispos'd of the government of Tauris in favour of Koutan Kan, and we learn that he is advancing to Casbin, in order to be there crowned with great pomp and solemnity.

As to the affairs of the North, which have so much engaged our attention for a twelvemonth past, some critical turn in them seems to be now not far distant. We before mentioned the declaration made by the Russian court at Stockholm, and the answer returned to it by the Swedish ministry.

Letters from Stockholm, now assure us, that the old Swedish monarch, notwithstanding his pacific inclinations, is not a little ruffled at the contents of the late declaration made by the Russian minister there; his majesty judging, that the empress of Russia might or ought to have been satisfied with the declaration made by him and the prince successor the 22d of July last; so that it seems very doubtful whether the Swedish court will give any instrument more binding; or better security, than the declarations already made to remove the fears of those who imagine that an alteration is intended in the form of government in that kingdom. In this opinion the Swedes are confirmed since the holding of an extraordinary council, the result of which has been communicated to the ministers of the powers in friendship and alliance with Sweden, and contains in substance, "that this court will continue to do all that lies in her power to prevent a war in the North; but that care will be taken, at the same time, not to derogate in the least from the rights and independency which Sweden, as a sovereign state, ought to enjoy, and is resolv'd to enjoy."

They write from Berlin, that a conference has been held at Potsdam on the affairs of Sweden, the result of which has been there talk of af-

no doubt, to the said affairs. Sweden hath also received assurances from the court of France, that whenever Russia puts her late declaration in execution, his most Christian majesty will perform the engagements he contracted in 1747.

*Algiers, Sept. 19.* The corsair Agi Mossi, after having sail'd over the coasts of Sicily, Naples, and all Italy, France, and a great part of Spain, return'd on the 10th instant into this port, having taken a small Genoese vessel, and another of Corsica, freighted with corn and timber, and on board of which there were about 30 hard.

It is generally conjectur'd; that this small squadron, which had been equip'd at a very considerable expence, in order to go a cruising against the Christians, has no ways answered the end propos'd; and that the reward which was promis'd them by the Dey, will fall vastly short of their expectations.

Be that as it may, it is true, however, that they have not been able to accomplish the descent, which they propos'd to make on some part of Italy, where they found their antagonists always ready to give them a very warm reception.

*Stockholm, Oct. 14.* A few days ago there was an extraordinary meeting of the senate, at which they took into consideration the state of the forces of this kingdom, and came to divers resolutions for augmenting the troops, in case of need, to 80,000 men, which is the number we had on foot in 1742.

*Oct. 17.* Our troops are in excellent order, and complete, and levies are still making at home and in Germany, for the service of this crown; our magazines are likewise well furnish'd with all kinds of necessaries. As the season is already far advanced, orders have been sent down to the sea-ports, to furnish as many of the galleys as possible, and launch them before the frost sets in.

*Linghorn, Oct. 14.* The corsairs of Algiers, Tripoli, and Tunis, continue to infest the coasts of Naples, Sicily, and other Italian states; they are very numerous, and divided into small squadrons, the better to interrupt the Christian vessels.

*Petersburg, Oct. 7.* The empress, our gracious sovereign, is expected very shortly in our city; and though we are overjoy'd to hear of her return, yet that joy is not absolutely perfect. When her Imperial majesty set out for Moscow, she thought proper to declare, that she should not return to this court, till the posture of affairs should be so circumstantiated, as to require her personal attendance. From that declaration, abundance of our politicians conjectur'd, that there was little or no prospect of a rupture in the North; but this sudden resolution of her Imperial majesty's return to this city, gives just grounds to others, to imagine that there will soon be a misunderstanding between this court and that of Sweden. And this opinion seems to be well-grounded; since the empress upon the representations of his Britannic majesty, that her residence for any considerable time longer at Moscow would prove very prejudicial, considering the present ticklish situation of affairs, had assur'd that monarch, that she was ready to remove from thence the first emergent occasion. From whence 'tis concluded, that the present time is the critical conjuncture.

*Genoa, Oct. 18.* The three Venetian men of war that are destin'd to cruze upon the Barbary corsairs, call anchor a few days ago in the gulph of Spezzia, from whence, as we are assur'd, they will repair hither, the captains of them having some proposals to lay before the senate.

*Paris, November 14.* The report of marshal Lowendahl's making dispositions for a journey to Germany is far from being confirm'd. We have yet great hopes that the affairs of the North will be adjust'd, if the courts of Russia and Sweden can agree about renewing the treaties between them, and removing certain difficulties relating in particular to the limits on the side of Finland.