

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

WEDNESDAY, April 11, 1750.

*From the London and Gentleman's Magazines, for the Month of November, 1749.*

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

ROM France we have since our last the following advices, viz. That the court is particularly attentive to put its colonies in America, and those of the West-Indies, upon a good footing; for which end all the young people that offer themselves, are engaged upon very advantageous terms. That at Quebec, and the other places in Canada, they are at work on a great number of ships of all kinds, which joined to the many other now building in the different ports of France, will soon put their marine on a respectable footing; and that so many ships loaded with wheat had arrived at Bourdeaux from England before the end of last month, that the best did not sell for seven lyles the bushel, three and one half of which make the Winchester quarter; so that English wheat sells now in France for less than 35 s. a quarter, which is not above the price it sells for in some country places in England. Whether it be prudent in us to enable our rivals in all sorts of manufactory, to have our wheat so cheap, by our giving so large a bounty as 55 s. per quarter on exportation, is a question that deserves our attention.

Thomas Hevan, who lately escaped from England, is arrived at Bouegne, to establish a woollen manufactory; many smugglers also outlaw'd and others flock thither, and are forming themselves into a company, to promote the practice of smuggling; and they are setting up a manufactory for making hats; ships daily arriving with coney wool. Orders are also given for making a canal from Bologne to St. Omer, by which the Ne-terlanders may be cheaply served with cloth, hats, and other commodities, from that place.

The naval armaments of that kingdom go on with great vigour both in Europe and America; the comptroller general of the finances has lately paid to the minister of the marines, half a million sterling in ready money, to be remitted to Rochfort, Brest, and Toulon, where arrived lately two large Dutch fly boats, with cables, masts, &c. for four large men of war, almost finish'd; at Rochfort two ships, one of 80 guns, called Le Brave, and another of 74, will be ready to put to sea in February.

From Spain, That Mr. Keene, the British minister, had on the 3d inst. received from his court the plan of a convention, for adjusting all differences between the two crowns; and that it was expected it would be signed by his Catholic majesty's minister the next day; but those expectations have not, it seems, been yet answer'd. That the two men of war with transports for the Carraccas, sail'd from Cadiz the 21st ult. having 1500 men, regular troops, on board, for reducing the malecontents in that country. And that as there was a great number of vagabonds in the kingdom of Spain, the court have ordered them all to be taken up, and distributed in those provinces which are the most thinly inhabited, in order to be employ'd in tillage, and other country improvements. These vagabonds are computed to be about 20,000 in number, from whence it is hoped, that this method of employing them will be of great service to the nation, and tend greatly to prevent the scarcity of corn, which has frequently happened in Spain.

That Mr. Keene continues his negotiations with that court; and his Portuguese majesty, having warmly interest'd himself in this business, the British minister at Lisbon has presented him with a letter of thanks, which was graciously received. Whether Mr. Keene will succeed or not, his countrymen have evacuated the island of Rattan, where they had made a settlement.

From Lisbon That his majesty has received from the marquis

news, that he had entirely defeated the famous Maratta, and all his adherents.

From Vienna, That the empress queen has issued an edict, whereby she prohibits the importation of any stuffs or toys, made either of silver or gold, in any foreign parts; watches only excepted, under the penalty of 200 ducats, besides the corporal punishment therein expressed.

Madrid, Nov. 12. The new project of convention between this court and that of Great Britain, has been examined in the council of the king, and his majesty has given his approbation; so 'tis believed that this affair will be brought in a few days to a final conclusion.

Nov. 14. The king some time ago enter'd into a negotiation with the republic of Venice, to take into his service three of its men of war, and the affair having been concluded, we have received advice, that these ships were actually sail'd, in order to enter into one of the ports of this kingdom.

Paris, Nov. 18. As to the orders which have been in relation to the marine of this kingdom, and sent to the several ports thereof, they have not been slept over, but punctually and expeditiously executed; so that it is in a fair way of being soon re-establish'd, the court from time to time receiving advice, that men of war newly built have been launched. 'Tis however assur'd, that the intention of the king is very public, as is likewise that of some of his ministers, and that they will do their utmost endeavour to procure a long continuance of peace for the welfare of the people. This may be, say some of our politicians, but how comes it to pass, that so much pains are taken in time of profound peace, to put the marine upon so formidable a footing, when it was in so indifferent a one in the heat of the war? With what view are all the magazines of Alsace and Lorraine fill'd? Perhaps, say the same people, it is only to make the king respected by his neighbours, and to enable him to behold with tranquility whatever may happen in Europe.

Paris, Nov. 21. A few days ago, the king hunting a wild boar in the forest of Fontainebleau, his majesty wounded it with his lance; upon which the enraged creature sprung at him with great fury; but a huntsman instantly threw himself between his majesty and the boar. The poor man was thrown from his horse, and 'tis fear'd is mortally wounded. The king made a second push at the boar, which at the same time was shot at and killed. 'Twas a fierce old animal.

We are inform'd, by a vessel arriv'd at Brest from Canada, that at Quebec, and the other places of that country, they are building a great number of ships of all sorts; which, joined to the many others that are building in the different ports of France, will soon put our marine on a respectable footing. A man of war of 54 guns was last week launched at Rochfort, where there are four others on the stocks.

Paris, Nov. 14. By letters from Constantinople, dated October 10, we have advice, that the deputies of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, after repeated solicitations of the grand Vizir, have obtained an answer, that if these states should actually be attacked, the Porte would take them under his protection; but at present the danger did not seem to be very imminent. The king won last week of an English lord, 600,000 livres, or 30,000 l.

Vienna, Nov. 19. Several regiments are ordered to march for Lombardy. And new levies are carried on with extraordinary vigour, both here, and by the princes and states of Italy. All which are preceoded to preserve peace in that part of the world. They talk of erecting a tenth electorate in the empire; the candidates for which are the Houses of Hesse Cassel, and Saxe Gotha, which latter formerly enjoy'd that honour, till it was transferred by Charles V. to the family of Saxe Dresden; and as it now has the interest of the elector of Hanover, that of the Cas... will probably be supported by the