

THE  
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*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

WEDNESDAY, October 24, 1750.

*G E N O A, June 6.*

On the 23d of last month, the general procession of the Ashes of St. John the Baptist was performed here, tho' for ought the people know, it might as well be the Ashes of the Man in the Moon. Among the companies of Penitents that should assist at this procession, there is one composed of the Sbirri, who wanted to distinguish themselves this year, by availing themselves of certain pretensions. The other companies being informed of the design of the Sbirri, their Christian zeal and charity flamed up to the highest pitch, and they resolved to take vengeance on them, by plunging their stilletos into their breasts, at a signal to be given in the midst of their prayers and hymns during the procession, or else seizing upon them all at once, and heaving them into the sea. For this laudable purpose, suggested by the father of pride, the destroyer of mankind, they had hired 400 men well armed, who were to have been posted at different places to act in concert with them. The government having had timely notice of this plot, prevented its being carried into execution, by ordering the Sbirri not to assist at the procession with the usual crucifix, and, moreover, to walk behind all those that follow it: Besides which, the senate ordered, that whereas the procession usually went as far as the point of the mole, to bless the sea, it should for this time go no farther than the entrance of the mole. By these precautions, the procession was performed without any disturbance or tumult.

*Petersburg, July 4.* The Cronstadt squadron, consisting of seven ships of the line and three frigates, put to sea the 2d inst. It is to touch at Revel, and be join'd there by the like number of men of war and frigates; after which they will proceed on a cruise to the Baltic. It is still given out, that there is no other design in this, than to exercise the seamen.

*Madrid, July 7.* Mr. Keen continues to confer with the king's ministers about an accommodation of the differences between the two courts. As to the execution of the 16th article of the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, we cannot yet see how that affair may be decided: However one may perceive in both courts an almost equal inclination to settle it by way of equivalent or compensation. An old habit, or rather a confirm'd prejudice, made it believ'd, that the Spaniards could not work their mines in the Indies without negroes from the coast of Guinea. The want of those negroes during the nine years war with the English, made the government recur to the expedient of employing the natives of the country in that work, not as slaves, but as hired day labourers. This succeeded, and the mines were as well wrought as by the negroes. So that as we could do without the latter for some years, we hope to have no occasion for them hereafter; at least we cannot at present foresee what should force us to return to the former method.

*Leghorn, July 13.* We have accounts from all parts of such a plentiful harvest, that several of our merchants will have large quantities of corn left upon their hands, or else must be obliged to part with it at a considerable loss. The English merchants have offered to furnish Spain with what corn they may have occasion for in that kingdom; so that we can have no hopes of disposing of any that way, and that seems to be the only market.

*Stockholm, July 17.* The 15th inst. we received advice, by a ship arrived from Finland, that the Cronstadt and Revel squadrons have joined off the latter port; upon which our court has sent out three frigates and three galleys from Carelskroon, to cruise along the coast, and exercise the seamen.

*Venice, July 18.* The senate have insinuated to the pope's

nuncio, that it would be agreeable to them, if he withdrew in five days from this city, and five days more from the territories of the republic. The government has likewise sent orders to our ambassador at Rome to return home. This misunderstanding has been occasioned by the Roman court's late decision in the affair of the patriarchate of Aquieia. As the republic complains that this decision is advantageous only to a neighbouring court, it is feared that these first steps will be productive of hotter disputes. The Imperial minister has dispatched a courier to his court on this occasion.

*Extrad of a letter from Berlin, July 21.*

"This day a courier arrived from Stockholm, with some dispatches of the utmost importance; the contents of which, we may be able to speak of next post. In the mean time, it is whispered that those dispatches are decisive in their kind, and that there must quickly be a solid peace, or else a war in the North.

*Paris, July 24.* Last Saturday the parliament being assembled, on the trial of a youth of 17 years of age, who in the late tumult here, forgot himself so far as to run to fetch fire, in order to burn the house of M. la Fosse, one of the city commissaries; just as the trial enced, and the crime plainly proved upon him, so that nothing more was expected than that sentence of death must pass on him, the female shopkeepers in and about the court of the palace, pitying the unfortunate delinquent on account of his youth and comely figure, came in a body, to the number of 100 and upwards, and threw themselves at the feet of the first president of the parliament: One of them in particular, harangued him in so moving a strain of natural eloquence, that being no longer able to withstand their solicitations, and perhaps induced thereto by prudential reasons, he granted him a respite for a fortnight, that they might have time to apply to the dauphiness in behalf of the prisoner.

*Newcastle, July 28.* On Tuesday night last about eleven o'clock, broke out the most dreadful fire ever known in Newcastle: It began at the bottom of an entry or narrow lane, in the Cloie, near Tyne-bridge, in a cellar made use of for a warehouse, situate on the side of the river, where the buildings stood extremely crowded together, and without any wharff or key betwixt them and the water, which made all approach for assistance more difficult and dangerous. About half a score of dwelling houses, and a great many warehouses, with abundance of goods and furniture, were entirely consumed before eight o'clock the next morning; the fire then still burning, but the danger of its spreading further, or doing more mischief, pretty much over. The damage sustained upon the whole, is computed by some at near 10,000l. It was a remarkable good providence, that throughout the whole night and the next day, the air was exceeding still and calm; for if there had been but a moderate wind, in all probability a few hours would have seen all the Sand-hill, and perhaps the greatest part of the town, in ashes.

They tell us from Penrik, that last Sunday night, about 8 o'clock, a strange Phænomonon was seen in the air in sundry shapes, sometimes appearing in the form of a broad sword, and at other times in that of a trumpet.

They write from Darlington, that on Tuesday morning last, they had there the most terrible claps of thunder, and flashes of lightning, ever known in the memory of man, which split the spire of the church from top to bottom, and damaged two or three houses.

*Dublin, July 14.* Last Wednesday Edward Costeloc, and Mary his wife, were executed at St. Stephen's Green, for filching and diminishing guineas and half guineas. The man was hanged, drawn, and quartered, and the woman was burnt to ashes.

LONDON,