

M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, November 7, 1750.

M A L T A, June 8.

AST Saturday being the anniversary of the happy discovery of the horrid conspiracy, that was to have extirpated the knights of our order, and put this island into the hands of the Turks; the same was kept as a day of solemn thanksgiving. The following discovery, which was made but a few days before, contributed not a little to make us earnest and fervent in our prayers on that occasion. A man that was employed in rubbing the floors of the grand master's apartments, having found a bundle of old papers lying in a window, flung it into the fire; and an excessive stench filling the room at the same instant, immediately gave rise to some suspicions. To clear up the matter, the papers were quickly taken out of the fire; and having been inspected by skilful persons, were found to contain a most subtil poison. Upon which the government thought it expedient to make farther enquiry into the affair, and immediately ordered a slave to be taken up, whose office was to spread the grand master's table. This fellow being put to the rack, confessed that he had received this poison from the bashaw of Rhodes, with directions to convey some of it into his eminency's cup, on the day that the plot was to have been carried into execution. At the same time he impeached several other slaves, some dead, some living, who had been charged with the same commission; among whom were three assistants to the grand master's head cook, who were likewise immediately taken into custody. Since this discovery, the bashaw of Rhodes is cloier confined than before, and it will probably hasten the punishment, which he has but too well deserved.

Vienna, July 16. A courier arrived here from Mr. Penckler, minister from the court at Constantinople, though nothing more of his dispatches was published, than that the mufti was deposed. But private letters from the same court intimate that the grand signior has run great risk of being himself deposed by means of the intrigues of the factions excited by France; which not being content with having occasioned a general change in the Ottoman ministry, was desirous of pushing its points still farther, seeing his highness appears to that court to be of too pacific a character, not having served in its late designs against the Christian princes. If France has failed this time in her design, she has not abandoned it, she will not rest till she has succeeded in it; another Christ an power will be aiding to effect this, but only on condition to forward the scheme, France must defray the expences of it. It looks as if the Imperial court foresaw some storm gathering in that quarter, by putting the strong places in Hungary and Transylvania in a good condition of defence; and this too is undoubtedly the cause of the wise Venetians arming. 'Tis pretended the bayles, the Venetian ministers at Constantinople, have discovered the whole of this secret machination, this abominable work of a Christian court, to the senate, and that noble body to the court of Vienna; so that we have now the solution of this enigma, which so much puzzled our politicians, who could not conjecture what should be the meaning of the great Armament which is there preparing at a time of profound peace, and so hastily filling the post of generalissimo of the troops, which the jealous senate seldom supplies in time of peace.

Vienna, July 28. 'Tis assured that in a council lately held at Schonbrun, it was resolved to augment the national troops of Hungary, with six regiments of horse, and four of foot.

Hague, July 31. A solemn deputation from the states of Groningen delivered three days ago, to the prince stadtholder, the diploma, by which the hereditary stadtholdership of their province is settled on his serene highness, and his heirs male and female.

Extract of a Letter from Lintz, July 24.

"Two days ago a strange accident happened very near this city; a fisherman going about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, with some of his comrades to wash themselves in the Danube, he in particular, out of a bravado, would dive in one of the deepest places of the river. His companions being surprized at not seeing him rise for a quarter of an hour after, concluding he must be drowned, though they knew him to be a very good swimmer, they immediately fetched their nets that lay in a boat near at hand, and casting them where they saw their comrade dive, they at length got the body, but found an arm and a leg entangled in the root of an old tree; but whilst they were endeavouring to disengage the limbs, in order to get the corpse into their boat, they perceived a serpent, of a prodigious size, fastened to the left pap; at the sight of which they were so frightened, and screamed so loud, that they even frighted the monster, who thereupon let go his prey, and after hissing most horribly, plunged into the river. The poor fishermen being a little recovered from their consternation, surveyed the corpse of their comrade, and found that the serpent had already gnawed almost through his heart. Since this sad accident our magistrates have ordered the river to be dragged with nets, above and below the place where it happened; but they have not yet been able to catch this dangerous creature; and 'tis to be feared that we shall hear of more mischief done by it. In the mean while, scarce any body will venture to cross the water within a mile of the place where this accident happened."

Copenhagen, August 8. The king of Denmark has been here for some days, to be present at the trial of a new cannon, particularly contrived for quick firing, which is of a larger size than those commonly used in that way, and has been invented by one Steuben, formerly an officer in the Prussian service, but now engaged in that of this court, where he instructs the cadets in the art of engineering. The experiment was made on the 6th instant, in the ste of Amack, but an unfortunate accident, that happened during the operation, had like to have proved fatal to his Danish majesty. The secret of the engineer consisting chiefly in his manner of charging the piece through an opening at the hinder end, he was unwilling to discover it to a great number of spectators, and therefore had planted the cannon within a small inclosure of boards, uncovered at the top, but so high on every side, that though the effect might be visible to all, his way of working could be seen by no body, except a few judges, whom the king might be pleased to appoint. His majesty went into this inclosure himself, and was attended by the grand marshal, general Lerche, and count Ikenburg; the engineer having an officer and two cadets to assist him. After they had made about twenty discharges, with great rapidity, the loose powder, by some inadvertency, took fire. Whereupon the remaining cartridges, which were at first sixty in number, made up with balls, all blew up. And what surprized every body was, that any one of those, who were so closely confined, should escape from such an accident; yet providence so ordered it, that the king had only his hair singed, and his attendants were a little scorched; but one of the cadets was burnt so much, that he died the same night. As all the spectators were in the utmost consternation, the king had the goodness and presence of mind to assure them immediately with his own mouth, that he had received no hurt; and seeing the engineer in the utmost confusion, his majesty was pleased to comfort him likewise, by assuring him, that he was well satisfied with the proof of his invention, and should not think the worse of it for the misfortune that had happened, which could not be imputed to any fault in the contrivance.

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