

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, J U L Y 6, 1786.

M A D R I D, January 10.

EVERY day is now marked with a new stride towards improvement and civilisation, in which we have remained so long behind hand with the other nations of Europe. New societies for learned or useful objects are daily established and encouraged by government. The economical in the country called Urgel, has lately been employed in settling the much talked of plan of opening a canal from Urgel to Zarragone, and on the means of bringing a sufficient quantity of water to supply the inhabitants of the plain of Urgel, where one hundred and eighty-six dwelling houses and ninety-six hamlets are totally ruined and depopulated for want of water, which is so very scarce all about the above country, that the people are obliged to send to the river at a great distance, besides it was proved that the water thus fetched, stagnated in the vessels employed for that use, and proved very prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants, so far as to occasion an epidemical distemper, which has swept off a great number of people, and still continues to rage with unabated violence in that part of the kingdom.

L O N D O N, April 14.

On Friday last a hackney coachman, in Tooley-street, undertook for a trifling wager, to eat a bullock's heart, weighing eight pounds, three pounds of potatoes, and a three penny loaf, and also to drink three pots of porter, in the space of three quarters of an hour: he had nearly completed the business, when a part of the deaf ear stuck in his throat, and notwithstanding assistance being procured, he expired in great agony, in less than ten minutes.

Last week a gentleman of the navy was married at Portsmouth, to a lady no less distinguished for her beauty, than lately for the number of her matrimonial connexions. The happiness of the honeymoon was soon, however, interrupted by the appearance of another lady, who put in a prior claim to the possession of the bridegroom. This he could not disavow; but as Portsmouth was never yet known to discourage the liberal swing our honest tars take in the gangway to Hymen, though their humour should even exceed to the latitude of a sultan, nothing more than simply a separation of the parties took place. But to console herself under the misfortune, the very day after the willowed bride paid another visit to the connubial shrine, with a new lover; since which it has been discovered that this accomplished fair one has been married, though no more than twenty-two, to no less than ten different husbands, besides those now mentioned. And what not a little contributes to the singularity of this fact is, that the twelve husbands are married to no fewer than ninety wives collectively!!!

Extrait of a letter from Versailles, April 5.

"The fourth instant Mr. Eden, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from the British court, had a private audience with his most christian majesty, during which, he delivered his credentials. This gentleman was presented to the king, and afterwards to the queen and royal family; by Mons. Tolozan. Nothing has yet transpired relative to the commercial treaty. As to the prohibition of English goods, it is a mere bugbear. The shops about this metropolis, particularly in the Palais Royal are loaded with our manufactures; which like the British breed of horses, carry their superiority in spite of national jealousy. I had the curiosity no later than yesterday to inquire of a French shopkeeper, the reason of a prohibition, which did not seem to affect the dealer? His answer was, English goods are prohibited, but we contrive to get over whatever articles we want, at a very trifling additional expence. So that we may conclude the whole is French snuff."

April 17. There is scarcely a quarter of the globe to which ministry have it not in view to extend the invigorating and enriching influence of commerce. The commutation act reaches to Indostan. Mr. Eden's superior commercial faculties are, at this moment, busy in France. With the empress of the Russias, every possible step is daily taken. The Scotch fisheries, and the whale trade, are constantly and zealously attended to; and by the plan to be adopted to protect and promote our navigation and commerce on the banks of Newfoundland, the settlers there, and in Nova-Scotia, will eventually be enabled to subsist, not only in comfort, but in affluence. Efforts directed to such objects as these, are truly honourable to those who make them. They are such as promise to be the most conducive to national wealth and felicity, and therefore well deserve

to be held as matters of the first and highest consideration.

There appears such a disposition in the public to have the national debt reduced, that if Mr. Pitt had thought proper to pay off two millions per annum instead of one, it is not improbable but the people would cheerfully have consented to load themselves with additional taxes to accomplish a measure they have so much at heart; but then those taxes must have been laid on their luxuries, and not on articles which are absolutely necessary to their existence.

Extrait of a letter from the Hague, April 10.

"The states of Holland, in their last session, have resolved upon the reduction of the new corps of Mallebois, Hesse Darmstadt and Malta; but the chiefs of these corps, as well as colonel Baron de Meyern, who much exerted himself in the service of the republic, are to come in for the next vacant regiments.

"The legion of Count Salm is not to be reduced, because of having had the unanimous consent of all the provinces. Lieutenant Geraner, who served under colonel Emmerick, during the civil war in North-America, and was by that officer recommended to Count Salm, has much contributed to render the legion conspicuous with regard to strict discipline and exercise after the Prussian manner.

"The grand commission, composed of above fifty deputies from the different provinces, are actually met. They have in charge to examine, and to establish upon a permanent footing, the defence of the republic by sea and by land; and likewise to settle and ascertain the quota, or contribution of each province towards it.

"Moraud, whose sentence of death, for having assaulted the magistrates in passing the Hadthoudrian gate, was changed into perpetual imprisonment, is treated with much lenity by the gaoler, from which, and from some other circumstances, it is conjectured, that farther interest either is already, or will be made for him, and that he may regain his liberty in a short time. This man is a French refugee, settled at Kellen, near Emmerick, in the king of Prussia's dominions, from whence he came but lately to reside in this place. He is of a bold enthusiastic spirit, and of a sect who call themselves Puritans. His attempt against the magistrates was calculated to revive the scenes of De Witt, &c. He is very inveterate against the French on account of the revocation of the edict a Nantes by Lewis XIV. by which his ancestors suffered and lost their property."

Extrait of a letter from the Hague, April 8.

"It is said that the prince of Hesse Darmstadt, when he heard that the states general meant to discharge his brigade, presented a request to their high mightinesses, expressing his surprize at their determination to dismiss his whole brigade, which had cost him so much trouble and expence to raise, and praying that their high mightinesses would so order matters, that at least a part of his corps might be kept up. The court of France has given this republic the strongest assurances that she will not look with an indifferent eye on the interference of any foreign power whatever in the state affairs of these provinces; that the king of Prussia having always declared that he would never intermeddle in the private concerns of this republic, there is no reason to think he would swerve from his declaration, but yet the contrary reports which have been spread abroad, and which gain no small credit, make it necessary to be prepared for any event that may seem likely to take place."

Extrait of a letter from the Hague, April 12.

"They write from Loo, that on the tenth instant her serene highness the princess Louisa of Orange and Nassau, in presence of her august relations the stadtholder and his consort, made her profession of faith according to the forms of the reformed protestant religion in the chapel of the castle at Loo, where a great number of persons of rank attended on the occasion.

"The fifth instant at nine in the morning, three ships built for the East-India company were launched at Amsterdam in the space of twenty minutes. The Sieur Dirk Van Haarit is the builder of these vessels, which will be called the Admiral Suffrein, the Neerland Welvaaren, and the Conda."

A correspondent, on whose veracity we have reason to rely, sends the following paragraph:

Last Thursday a man was committed to the new gaol, Southwark, for a murder as singular for the slightness of the provocation as it is cruel in the fact. The murderer, like many of the present day, claimed a right to live on the earnings of others, and feigning an infirmity, demanded subsistence of the

parish of Godstone in Surry; the overseers, aware of the artifice, ordered an examination, and Dr. Birt, who resided there, reported that the claimant of parish support was as free from unsoundness, and as capable of working for bread as himself: This was the ground of his wrath; and accordingly a few days after, about noon, he embraced the opportunity of meeting the doctor and his son (a boy) when walking together, and with a hand bill in his hand, he cut the father on the knee, which brought him to the ground; he then cut off one arm, and following his blow cleft his skull; the child, seized with terror, shrieked and ran away; his cry however raised an alarm that produced the villain's capture; when taken, his only regret was that he had not also killed the officers of the parish. The calamity of the catastrophe to the sympathetic mind is still heightened by the deceased having left a pregnant widow, to whose existence it is feared the stroke will prove fatal. It is not an observation foreign to the case, that men who love to live on the industry of their fellow-subjects, have too much of this spirit.

The minister may take great credit to himself for his laudable attempt to equalise the customs, and reduce the unnecessary places; but the scheme is by no means new. The late Mr. Saxby of the custom-house, who has been dead fourteen years, has frequently mentioned it to our correspondent, and the method is simply as follows: The several branches of the customs were originally granted for temporary purposes, others of them were redeemable; and for a limited time, as the exigencies of the state occurred, those branches, one after another, were made permanent; and at present, and indeed, for a considerable number of years past, they have been considered as the most substantial part of the revenue. Therefore, as the net amount of the customs exceed, by a considerable sum, all the interest payable upon the capital, originally borrowed upon them, and now due, the necessity of calculating different branches, to pay different interests, consequently, has long since ceased. Mr. Saxby's plan was, therefore, to throw the whole produce into the sinking fund, and let that fund pay the interest. So much for the gross amount. But, in order to simplify the particular duties on each commodity, Mr. Saxby further proposed to strike, or add to the fractions, and make them whole sums; for instance, suppose an article of 3s. 10d. 9-10ths, 11-25ths, say 8s. 11d.—Upon this view of the subject, this affair of the customs is easy to be accomplished; and our correspondent is much astonished, that it should already have taken upwards of two years to accomplish, and not yet be ready to be put into execution.

Extrait of a letter from the Hague, April 7.

"Before the fatal affair of the 17th of last month, it was expected that the states of Holland would not have broke up without having deliberated on the project of restoring to the lord stadtholder, the command of the garrison of the Hague, in consequence of the proposition of the city of Amsterdam; but nothing has been done hitherto on that subject; therefore we must wait until the sittings after the easter holidays. It is the general opinion, that the prince has in some measure shut the gates of the Hague against himself, by saying in his letter to the states, about five or six months ago, that he could not return to the Hague whilst the command of the garrison was not restored to him, such as his father and himself had enjoyed without contradiction for so long a time. It is evident that in consequence of this declaration, the honour of his serene highness is committed; and that by not restoring to him the said command, his enemies keep the whole family of Orange at a distance from the Hague, as long as they please. Nevertheless all this must have a period; as the stadtholdership cannot in any manner be abolished, matters must come to an accommodation that will put an end to the precarious situation in which every thing remains during this time of trouble. In consequence we learn, that as a beginning towards restoring order, the council of Amsterdam, who, by a majority of five or six votes, persist in their opinion to restore the command to the prince, have written to each of the other cities, to bring them over to their opinion, with the precaution suitable to the dignity of the sovereign assembly. Upon the whole it is thought, that the prince will be obliged to acquiesce. The idea of being assisted sword in hand by the king of Prussia is a chimera which all sensible people laugh at, and which, in fact, is as contrary to the interests of the Orange family itself, as it is little to be dreaded, since the alliance formed with France.

"Things become more serious than ever in the province of Utrecht; the states of that province have