

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, F E B R U A R Y 1, 1787.

N A P L E S, September 20.

THE eruption of Mount Vesuvius has not yet entirely ceased; the great current of lava from that mountain continues to have some motion in it still, and does damage in different places.

L O N D O N, October 21.

Among the consequences resulting from the commercial treaty with France, is the temptation which will be held forth to our artists and manufacturers, to emigrate into that kingdom, and the facility with which it may be effected, in consequence of the increased intercourse. As that facility increases, so of course should the penalty. The forfeiture of 1000*l.* as it stands at present is not sufficient to curb the milid, or to repress the ambitious manufacturer. If the utmost caution be not applied in this particular, the policy of France may have so far improved her manufactures by the aid of our artisans, during the treaty, that on its expiration, she may not be at all solicitous for a renewal.

Oct. 23. A letter from Portsmouth says, that orders are come there for the men to work double tides, to get those ships out of dock, which are to sail to Botany Bay, with a governor and other officers. The subalterns and foldiers are to go on board those vessels that carry out the convicts. A number of tents are ordered to be got ready for the officers, &c. till houses can be erected for them. Amongst the convicts are bricklayers, carpenters and smiths, who are to be employed in the buildings, and to have some indulgence more than those that are of no trade.

Extract of a letter from Cape Coast Castle, May 15.

"Three French ships are arrived here, dispatched from Brest in January last, to make a settlement eastward of Anamaboe. They have already landed a great many people, and agreed with the natives to build a fort. I have done every thing in my power to frustrate their scheme, by offering the natives to drive them away; but I am afraid they will effect their purpose, unless government send a sufficient force to defeat their undertaking.

"This expedition was fitted out from Brest, in December last, and proceeded to sea, but the fifty gun ship having been dismasted in a gale of wind, was obliged to put back, and sailed again in January. They have on board considerable quantities of stores, building materials of every kind, and all descriptions of artificers for said purpose."

The above is an extract of a letter received by the African committee, from the English governor at Cape Coast Castle; but we can assure the public, that very copious dispatches arrived at the same time, and which are of a very gloomy nature. The committee has communicated the particulars to the merchants at Liverpool and Bristol, who are exceedingly alarmed, and several meetings have taken place with the ministry; but we do not hear that any thing decisive has been determined on. It is suggested that this matter is the cause of the meeting of parliament being deferred.

It may be useful information to our readers, that this settlement was conveyed to us by the natives many years since for a valuable consideration, and confirmed to us by the articles of peace.

Nov. 2. A letter from Leghorn says, that they have received the melancholy account by a ship arrived from Messina, that they have had again several shocks of an earthquake, which have destroyed what was left by the former earthquake; and that the few inhabitants there were preparing to leave that place for fear of being swallowed up, as the earth continued trembling; the captain says, that the sea was so agitated, that his ship was in danger of being lost; he also says, that several vessels were arrived there to carry off the inhabitants and their effects.

They write from from Paris that the bastille is ordered to be demolished. The Hotel de la Force is to be enlarged, and to have secret apartments for those who are now detained in the gloomy castle of Charles the fifth.

A letter from Warsaw says, that in consequence of the Polish grandees refusing to admit the prince of Nassau into the assembly of the diet, his royal highness appeared in the environs of the royal palace at the head of two hundred men. The nobles attempted to repulse the corps, but they were defeated, and the prince marched in triumph into the assembly, having his guard at the door. His highness has embraced the royal party, which he means to support with the greatest attachment and vigour.

Some letters received in town yesterday from Petersburg, by the way of Holland, mention, that the expedition which set off from that city some months since, to penetrate towards Kamtschatka, had met

with so many obstructions since their departure from Moscow, as to oblige them to make a long halt on the confines of Siberia.

B O S T O N, January 28.

Captain Stow, from Guadaloupe, arrived at New-London, on the 21st ult. in lat. 37, 40, long. 71, 30, spoke the schooner Two Sisters, Tucker, belonging to Sheepscut, who was blown off, and in distress, the crew having been obliged to eat raw hide and dog. Captain Stow supplied them with provisions; and they proceeded for North-Carolina; they had been 37 days from St. Peter's, bound to this port. Mr. Joseph Christophers, of Sheepscut, merchant; was on board.

A L B A N Y, January 4.

On Sunday morning last, between the hours of 4 and 5, the house occupied by Mr. Joseph Johnson, weaver, at the Whitehall farm, two miles from this city, was discovered to be on fire, by the people at the white house on said farm; and before sufficient assistance could arrive to extinguish the flames, the house and stable adjoining were entirely consumed. This melancholy accident is greatly heightened by the death of Mr. Johnson and two of his children, who perished in the flames; as did also two horses and a cow. At the time the fire broke out, there were in the house four of Mr. Johnson's children; two, however, escaped by leaping out of the chamber window. Mrs. Johnson (who for some time past has been disordered in her senses) slept from home on Saturday night—which circumstance, it is more than probable, prevented her from suffering, with her husband and children, a premature death.

N E W - Y O R K, January 11.

A letter lately received from Lisbon, gives the following description of a curious phenomenon, or rather a *Lusus Naturæ*, the real existence of which, however, we do not pretend to vouch to, as the writer is not personally known to us.

"Don Rodrigo de Vencelles, son of the governor of the bay of All Saints, has sent as a present to her faithful majesty, a young negro, whose person exhibits a kind of human zebra, from its variegated colour. He bears on the forehead a white triangular form, which ends in a point on the nose. The hair and the eye-brows included within that spot, are also white, but woolly as common to other blacks. Another spot of the same colour is visible on his chin, his shoulders are of a jetty black, but the breast and corner parts are nearly all over white, except here and there a few black spots. The arms and other parts of the body to the knee and below the ham, exhibit a medley mixture of black and white; but the former colour is unmixed to the toes, and this contrast makes his legs look as if they had on them a pair of buskins. It may be observed, as a greater singularity, that both his parents are of the deepest black."

We learn that "the king of Prussia, anxious of emulating the wisdom and glory of his immortal uncle, has formed the plan of a court of honour, for the purpose of preventing the diabolical practice of duelling;" and that "this court is to be established in all the dominions of his said majesty." Herein is discovered universal benevolence, and love of the human species; a principle greatly noble, which can be condemned by none except the abandoned class of mankind.—Honour is a word hardly to be defined—and never, except by the rules of reigning prejudices, which are—ever were—and ever will be pernicious.—Honour!—it is a chimera—abstractedly considered a mere phantom!—How happy would it be for the United States of America, were these prejudices reduced to order by a similar court of honour!—Where is the American hero who would, in this case also, tread in a Frederick's foot-steps.—The following, respecting said court, are Frederick's regulations.

Any officer or gentleman, striking his equal in any manner whatsoever, to be declared infamous, and be confined in a fortress for life. If the person who received the blow should happen to be the aggressor, by any sort of outrage, he shall be confined for three or six years, according to the aggravation of his offence; and if an officer, he shall be struck off, besides the imprisonment. Persons sending or accepting a challenge, instead of applying to this court, to be confined in a fortress for three or six years. A duel taking place, and one of the parties being killed, the survivor to be considered as an abettor, and punished with death; and if none of the parties should fall, both shall be imprisoned in a fortress for ten years, and even for life. Persons laying hold of a weapon in a private quarrel, though making no use of it, to be confined for three years.

Any person threatening another with a duel, or some material injury, to be considered as a violator of the public peace, and be confined for one or two years. Any persons fleeing his country, after fighting a duel, to forfeit his estate during his life, and his effigy to be stuck to the pillory. Any person acting in a duel as second, to be punished with five years imprisonment in a fortress; and a life being lost, the confinement of the second to extend to ten years. Any person abetting or enticing another to demand satisfaction by means of a duel, to be punished with one or several years imprisonment. The same punishment to be inflicted on any one calling a reflection on, or shewing a pointed disrespect for a person applying to this court. The offender in this case to be likewise deprived of his employments and titles of honour. Any dispute attended with extraordinary circumstances, to be referred to the throne.

A late London paper says: "It is said the French minister, in addition to the commercial treaty, has proposed an offensive and defensive one with this country; this would make Great Britain and France the arbiters of Europe, and insure to them a lasting peace. The proposal is at least a proof of the pacific disposition of the court of France. Those who have the best opportunity of seeing well informed of the state of the country, say, that the minister will, at the opening of the session, be able to represent the commerce and finances of this country, in a more prosperous situation than they have been at any period."

P H I L A D E L P H I A, January 17.

A letter from a gentleman at Glasgow, dated 20th October, to his friend in this city, mentions, "that Scotland never saw a more promising time than the present; her manufactures are rising into great repute, and her fisheries, the particular gift of bounteous Heaven, feed her industrious poor with plenty of cheap provisions. In short, a spirit of enterprise, and abundance of food, seem at once to unite in raising the country of cakes to a most respectable situation among the nations of the world. Britain has nearly cut out of the muslin trade, the slaves of India, and from the vast quantities manufactured and sold here as well as in the adjacent towns, there is reason to believe this country will obtain the pre-eminence of Manchester in that article."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Portland, Castle-Bay dated December 22.

"Captain Morgan, late master of a coasting sloop, belonging to Boston, arrived here this day, with her crew. He was bound to Boston with a load of wood, and was run down, off Cape Anne, by a vessel bound to Mathias. He was going close upon the wind, and the other before it. His sloop immediately sunk, and as it was in the night, they had only time to save their lives; and indeed, without a kind interposition of Providence, there could not have been preserved.

"A fishing vessel, belonging to Marblehead, arrived here this day, from the Banks, the master of which informed, that on the 16th November last, a - other vessel, belonging to the same place, foundered in a gale of wind not 50 yards distant from him, and every soul on board perished. He has been six weeks coming from the Banks, and says, that although he has followed the sea for 28 years, he never experienced such tempestuous weather."

A N N A P O L I S, February 1.

A LIST of LAWS passed NOVEMBER SESSION, 1786.

1. An act to repeal an act, entitled, an act for the relief of John Briscoe.
2. A second supplement to the act for establishing a company for opening and extending the navigation of the river Patowmack.
3. An act for the benefit of Elizabeth Willson, of St. Mary's county.
4. An act to empower the justices of Charles county, to levy on the inhabitants of said county, a sum of money for the relief of Francis Speake.
5. An act to vest in Isaac Spencer of Kent county, and Benjamin Roberts of Queen-Anne's county, an estate in certain lands therein mentioned, as tenants in common in fee-simple, and for other purposes therein mentioned.
6. An act for the relief of John Carmichael, and Train Ackworth, of Somerset county, and for other purposes therein mentioned.
7. A supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in the counties of Dorchester and Somerset.
8. An act for extending and continuing South-street, in Frederick-town in Frederick county, to the Conococheague road.