

NUMBER 1378.]

CONTINUATION OF Latest Foreign Intelligence.

It is confidently asserted, that Eali Affendi is going to reside at Paris as Ambassador from the Porte.

It appears that the French were, on the 5th of November, still in possession of the bridge of Hainaut, with a body of 9000 men. Nothing of any moment had taken place on the side of Kehl, or on the Lower Rhine, so late as the 10th.

A Spanish Squadron of 19 sail of the line and several frigates is arrived in the port of Toulon. General Clerke, Chief of the Topographical Department, has been appointed by the Director, Ambassador to the court of Vienna, for which place he set out on the 17th inst.

November 25. Gen. Simcoe was yesterday sworn in before his Majesty in Council, Governor of St. Domingo in the West Indies, for which place he is to set off immediately.

The Hamburg mail, which became due yesterday, had not arrived when this paper was put to press, nor had Government received any further intelligence from Paris.

Mr. Timms, the messenger, set out yesterday, and not before, with dispatches for Lord Malmesbury. These it is generally considered, contain the final resolution of government on the subject of the present negotiation. Mr. Ellis, we understand, will have to deliver a verbal message to his lordship.

Extract of a Letter from an Officer stationed at St. Marcou, dated Nov. 19, 1796.

"The troops which for some months past had lined the French coast opposite to these islands; have marched from thence, being, as I am informed, ordered to reinforce the armies on the Rhine. Even the signal posts which, previous to these encampments, were established along the shore, now appear abandoned: so urgent have been the wants of the French government for men. All the gun-boats have returned to England."

By the arrival of the Spanish fleet at Toulon, we are relieved from a late anxiety, lest Admiral Jervis should be blockaded by them at Corfica.

A Flemish paper received yesterday of the date of the 18th inst. speaks of a considerable commotion having manifested itself in different parts of Belgium, in consequence of some violent proceedings of the French, and which is not a little promoted by the late ill success of the latter on the Rhine. A considerable part of the army of Bournoville, it is said, have been ordered to march to quell the disturbances.

The court of Lisbon has positively refused to accede to the insulting proposition made to it by the court of Spain, viz.—to shut out all English vessels from the ports of Portugal. The court of Spain offered only a period of ten days to decide on this momentous point, and to receive a categorical answer. The court of Lisbon returned one without delay—highly honorable to its own dignity, and replete with good faith to its Allies. It declared that it would remain true to its engagements with Great Britain.—Accordingly, when the last letters left Lisbon, it was expected that the Spanish forces would attack without delay.

Nothing is worse than ill luck.—Sir Roger Curtis only left his station off the port of Rochefort on the 3d inst. in the evening, and Admiral Richery entered it on the 4th. We suppose his instructions were, to wait there no longer. His Squadron met with most terrible gales of winds during its cruise.

The Paris Papers, which we received yesterday afternoon by Express, to the 19th inst. inclusive, give an account of several changes which have taken place in the Naval appointments of the Republic.—Vice-Admiral Villaret Joyeuse, who has till now engaged the confidence of the Government, both under the Committee of the Public Safety and the Directory, has been dismissed from the command of the fleet at Brest; and Citizen Marad le Gail has been appointed to succeed him—Twelve Post-Captains have also been dismissed. Ten ships of the line, and 30 transports are preparing at Brest for a secret expedition. At Toulon, Vice Admiral Martin has been replaced by Citizen Boueys. The want of money is severely felt at both ports. At the latter place 3000 artificers have been discharged, as it was found impossible to pay them.

"The Santa Margarita of 38 guns, is gone up Hamoza to refit; the Edgar of 74 guns, and the Spitfire of 16 guns, are now going up."

"Came from Hamoza, and sailed for Fal-mouth, his majesty's Pizarre of 38 guns, capt. Barlow; and Amazon of 30 guns, capt. Reynolds."

"Chapman of 24 guns is gone up to Fal-moza to refit."

Extract of a letter from Portsmouth, Nov. 21. "In consequence of an order received this morning by the Telegraph, his majesty's ships Larona of 38 guns, hon. capt. Legge, and Greyhound of 32 guns, capt. Young, immediately put to sea."

"Admiral Gardner's Squadron is ready, and will sail in a few days to cruise on the coast of France."

"The Namur of 98 guns, capt. Whitehead; and Collossus of 74 guns capt. Grindall, are ordered to victual for the Mediterranean."

Extract of a letter from Deal, Nov. 21. "Sailed thro' the Downs the General Pinckney, White, for Charlestown. Remain the ships as per list. Wind S."

November 22. "Sailed this morning on a cruise to the Eastward, his majesty's ships, Melpomene 44 Capt. Sir C. Hamilton La Nymphe 38—Cook Clyde 31—Canningham."

The French Directory have announced the proposition

for an armistice with the Austrians, but it does not appear to have taken place except in regard to some out posts.

Nothing decisive on the subject of peace, but it is certain that negotiations are on foot between the Emperor and the Republic.

Mr. Pitt has proposed a mode of raising resources by subscription.

On the 25th Dec. the Carteret, Captain Taylor, spoke with the Andromache, of Philadelphia, Simon Kinston, master, 35 days from Cadiz bound to New York. Palms then bore S. E. 16 leagues. The head of her fore-mast was sprung.

On the 16th January, spoke the Danish ship Northern Lion, of Altona, Capt. John Yanzen, master, from Hamburg and Teneriffe, bound to Charleston, out 54 days. Lat. 23, 06, long. 57-00.

ARMY OF ITALY. BUONAPARTE TO THE DIRECTORY.

General Quarters at Verona, 23 Brumaire, Nov. 13.

It is my duty to give you an account of the operations which have taken place since the 11th. I was informed on the 10th, that an Austrian corps was advancing, and had encamped upon the Piave; I dispatched general Maffena as soon as possible with a corps of observation, to Bassano on the Brenta, with orders to retire to Vicenza the moment the enemy should pass the Piave; I ordered gen. Vaubois to attack the enemy's posts on the Trentia, and by all means to drive them from their position between the Lavis and the Brenta. The attack took place on the 11th, and a brisk resistance was made. Gen. Gutex went to St. Michel, and burnt the enemy's bridge. The latter rendered our attack upon Saouzano to no purpose, and the 5th demi-brigade was hardly tried in spite of its bravery. We have made 500 prisoners, and killed a great number of the enemy.

On the 13th, I ordered the attack upon Seguzano to be renewed, a place of which it was necessary we should be in possession, and being informed at the same time that the enemy had passed the Piave, I sent out with Angereau's division; we joined Maffena's division at Vicenza, and marched on the 15th, and met the enemy, who had passed the Brenta, came upon them by surprise, and swept them from their first position. The action was sharp, warm, and bloody; the advantage was ours; the enemy repulsed the Brenta, and we remained in possession of the field of battle; we made 500 prisoners, and killed considerably the greatest number. We took one piece of cannon. Gen. Lanus was wounded with a sabre. All the troops are covered with glory.

In the meanwhile the enemy had on the 13th attacked gen. Vaubois in several points, and threatened to take him in flank, which obliged the gen. to retreat to La Pietra, his right to the mountains, and his left to Moie.

On the 16th the enemy did not make their appearance, but on the 17th there was a most obstinate battle, in which we took two pieces of cannon, and 1300 prisoners, but night coming on, a panic struck one part of the troops.

The division took its position on the 18th at Rivoli, and Corona, by a bridge which I had caused to be erected for that purpose. The loss of the enemy must have been very considerable.

Being apprized of what was passing in Tyrol I hastened to set out on the 17th at day break, and we arrived on the 18th at mid-day at Verona.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of the 21st, having learnt that the enemy had set out from Montebello, and had encamped at Villa Neva, we went from Verona, and fell in with their advanced guard at St. Martin. Angereau attacked it, routed it, and pursued it three miles; it escaped under night.

On the 23d, at day break, we found ourselves in the presence of the enemy. It was necessary to put them to flight. We attacked them with skill and bravery—Maffena's division attacked them on the left; gen. Angereau on the right. Our success was complete. Gen. Angereau took the village of Cardera, and made 200 prisoners.

Maffena made himself master of the rising ground, turned the enemy about, and took five pieces of cannon; but the rain which fell in spots, was succeeded by a cold sleet, which a strong wind blew in the faces of our soldiers, and favoured the enemy, who, being joined by a corps of reserve which had not been beaten, regained the height. I have lent off the 7th demi-brigade which was kept in reserve. The two armies guard their position.

The weather continues very bad. To-day our troops take repose; to-morrow we shall regulate our operations by the movements of the enemy.

(Signed) BUONAPARTE.

Bulletin of the Army of Italy.

General Quarters Verona, 23 Brumaire Nov 13. On the 18th Brumaire, the division of the Divisionary General Vaubois took its position at Corona. The enemy's army is advanced from Vicozza to Montebello, and from thence to St. Martin.

The General in chief has marched the corps which he had upon the Adige, which set out from Verona on the 21st, at three o'clock in the afternoon. It met the advanced guard of the enemy between St. Martin & St. Michel, which it routed, and pursued for the space of three miles.

The next morning the two armies found themselves in presence of each other, and had a sharp engagement. The weather was extremely bad; this did not prevent the French army, however, from dislodging the enemy several times from their position, after having made about 700 prisoners. The General in Chief having been informed that the enemy were in motion upon the Lower Adige with a view of passing it, he marched, at day break, the whole body of the army to Verona.—The battle was very smart, the enemy's loss was estimated very high. Launay, General of Brigade, has been killed.

Geniti, General of division, Commander for the Republic in Cerica, at the head of a column of light-infantry, made himself master of the important height of Mortela, which has obliged the English fleet to evacuate the gulf of St. Florence.

Three English ships of war have been burnt in the port of Ajaccio.

(Signed) BERTHIER. GERMAN ACCOUNTS.

VIENNA, November 12. A messenger is arrived here from Lord Malmesbury at Paris, with dispatches for the English minister at the Imperial court, who immediately after had a long conference with Baron Thurgut; our minister of state. The dispatches were dated Paris, the 27th October, and contained the answer of the directory to the first note presented by Lord Malmesbury, in consequence of which Sir Morton Eden has inquired of our cabinet, whether his Imperial majesty would commission and empower Lord Malmesbury to negotiate a peace for Austria? It seems however, most likely, that an Imperial minister will be sent to Paris to carry on the negotiations jointly with the English negotiator, although the French directory appears to be averse to all sorts of congress.

The 4000 troops of Helt Darnstadt, which at first were to embark at Civita Vecchia, have now marched to Trieste, from whence they are to be conveyed to Gibraltar.

November 11. (FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY VIENNA COURT GAZETTE)

The reports of field marshal Baron Alvinzy, state the following particulars respecting the battle of the 6th, near Bassano and Fonteniva, the consequences of which are highly important.

The position of the army was as follows:—twelve battalions were posted near Fonteniva, and had their advanced posts on the opposite banks of the Brenta; one battalion was encamped near Cordignano, to cover the communication of the other corps, and eleven battalions were near Bassano.

On the 5th at break of day, accounts reached the field marshal from all sides, that Buonaparte had drawn in all his detachments from Legnago, Ferrara, Verona and Montebello, and even a part of his battering train; and had taken a position near Vicenza, with three divisions. These accounts having been found true on reconnoitering the enemy's position, the necessary dispositions were made to meet them, in case they should attempt an attack.

On the 6th, in the morning, the enemy attacked the van guard of field marshal Provera, near Fonteniva, the report of which having reached field marshal Alvinzy, the whole army was immediately ordered to advance, and two battalions were detached to Lenova, and one to Moroldica, to threaten the enemy's flank and rear, and to force them to desist from their attacks on field marshal Provera. But these troops had scarce reached Lenova, with the enemy far superior in force, attacked them with their usual impetuosity. Lenova was, with a considerable loss on both sides, several times taken and abandoned.

But as our troops had considerably suffered in this fever and constantly renewed attack, they were ordered to fall back into their former position, which extended from the mountains of the Sette Comuni, by Maroldice, beyond Lepova, as far as the Punta; and even on this position the enemy made several times the most furious attacks; but about the fall of night the conflict took a favorable turn, and the enemy were repulsed on all points. Field Marshal Provera was exactly in the same situation, and he states, that his loss on that day amounts to some thousands in killed and wounded, but that very few were taken prisoners, which shews, that the troops were not thrown into confusion. The field marshal estimates the enemy's loss at 4000 men.

The night put a period to the action, during which, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, the field marshal received the agreeable intelligence, that field marshal lieutenant Davidovich had rendered himself master of Trent.

The situation of our troops having been much improved by this event, the field marshal resolved to attack the enemy on the 9th, in order vigorously to pursue the object of his expedition, if the enemy, on account of the severe loss they sustained on the 6th, should not retreat.

The night after the battle, was employed to bring the troops to the different points assigned them, and to make the necessary dispositions for the following day. At break of day the whole army was under arms, and ready for action. But on the return of the patrols, the field marshal learnt that the enemy had fallen back. They would have been immediately pursued, but that field marshal lieutenant Provera was obliged to re-establish the bridge of Pontoon, broke down by the enemy, which was accomplished about noon.

At one o'clock in the afternoon, the army began to move forwards, both from Bassano and Fonteniva, and at nine o'clock at night, reached the camp near Scaldaferris; three battalions having been left on the right flank near Moroldica, and the different columns ordered to form a junction between St. Pietro di Gu and Giolo. But no enemy was to be seen, except that the van guard of Provera's column overtook the rear of the French, which brought on a trifling skirmish between our troops and the enemy.

On the 8th, early in the morning, the field marshal reviewed the divisions of field marshal lieutenants Provera and Quosdanovich, and as it appeared to him indispensably necessary closely to pursue the enemy, already thrown into confusion, without allowing them time to rally and gather strength, the army put itself in motion at ten o'clock in the morning, and pursued the enemy in three columns, as far as Vicenza. On our approach they drew in their advanced posts, abandoned Vicenza, and retreated to Montebello.

The field marshal ordered his vanguard, under general Holzscholler, to take post at Altavilla, and the main body of his to occupy a position on the road to Verona, and was determined, in case the enemy should not evacuate Montebello in the course of the night, to dislodge them from thence the next morning.

The French General Anstutz, who commanded the enemy's horse and van guard, was severely wounded, taken prisoner, and conducted to Vicenza.

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of whose practice in this respect we had some knowledge.

He confessed there were great difficulties attending this subject. He was not ashamed to confess himself very unequal not only to the task of indicating to the house what measures would be proper to be taken, but even of judging for himself on the subject. It was a subject which had engaged for a long time the best talents of this country, and there still existed a division of opinion about which was the best mode of raising revenue; but, when an individual was called upon to form a judgment, however difficult the task may be, he must take some course or other, and in his choice he could only be directed by his own understanding, improved and informed by the experience of others.

Since the subject was full of difficulties on all sides, he said, they had only to chuse between evils. He was of opinion that whatever objections might be brought against the system of indirect taxation, that the inconveniences of that system were far less than those which would be found in a system of direct taxation. With respect to a land tax, or tax on real property, there were circumstances in which he believed it the very best mode of raising revenue which could be adopted, viz. in a country where wealth & population were equally diffused throughout the whole territory; where markets were, of course, every where convenient; where a farmer could easily exchange his labour for another man's labour, or where produce sold every where at nearly the same price. In such a country, he believed a land tax was a very good tax; there the ratio upon which such a tax might be equally laid, was readily attainable; but, in our country, he said, the situation of things was totally different.

It was well known, that the great population and wealth of this country lay near the sea coast, and that, in proportion as it was receded from, the population became thin and the country comparatively poor by being far removed from a market for the produce of the soil. The exchange against a man removed 300 miles from the coast was so great, that much of what he sent to market was wasted by the expence of conveyance. Hence results, said he, the scarcity of money which exists in the interior of a country like ours, which renders the payment of a small sum inconvenient, and this difficulty cannot be removed by any regulation which can be introduced. A man on the Monongahela called upon for twenty shillings, would find it lie heavier upon him than a farmer on the Delaware would find twenty pounds lie upon him, as he would experience more than twenty times the difficulty in procuring the money; for, from the scarcity of circulating medium, in remote situations, it was almost impossible to convert the most valuable articles of produce into money, whilst persons living near a good market were able to sell the most trifling articles for a good price.

These observations were so well verified in that part of the country with which he was best acquainted, that though the most equitable valuation had taken place, yet a tax which had been laid in consequence of that valuation, had been collected with the greatest difficulty.

It would be found, therefore, from these statements (for the truth of which he appealed to every gentleman who had thought upon the subject) that let direct taxes be laid in whatever manner they might, they would bear extremely hard in some cases, though they might be perfectly light in others. This he considered as one of the greatest objections to a land tax, an objection which did not exist in European countries, as they are full of inhabitants, and the farmer had every where a market for his produce.

Indirect taxes, on the contrary, Mr. H. said, were collected with facility, and were voluntarily paid. If a man found himself pinched for money, he might refrain from purchasing, at least for a time, of such articles as were taxed, and not immediately necessaries of life, or he would make a less quantity serve him; but a direct tax could not be avoided, however unable a man might be to pay it. Hence, he said, would arise executions and a variety of distress amongst that class of citizens who were unable to meet the demands of government.

Another objection, not less strong, to direct taxation, was the impossibility of apportioning such a tax equally. He said impossibility, and he was warranted in the expression. He was desirous of hearing how the committee of Ways and Means meant to apportion and collect this tax; but this information was withheld, and they were called upon to agree to the principle without any plan of carrying it into effect. He said it was impossible from two causes; first, from markets being remote in some parts and convenient in others, and consequently land being of much less value in some parts than in others, and from the vast inequality which took place in proportion to population and to the improved or unimproved state of agriculture. So that some parts of the same district was of much more value than others, and even some farms more than others, from the superior skill and industry of their present possessors, or of those who heretofore possessed them. There was no part of the country, he said, where this remark would not be verified. Combine with this circumstance, the contiguity and distance from markets, and the impossibility of an equal apportionment would appear evident. Nor was the distance from a market alone to be considered; bad roads were an insurmountable objection in some parts of the country. How these difficulties were to be overcome, he was at a loss to see. He believed such a tax could not be laid with any degree of justice. It had been attempted in some states; in some it had been found impracticable, and in others attended with very great inconvenience. In the state which he represented, it had been attempted upon a principle which seemed to be generally approved; but it had been found that a man who possessed land of four times the value of