

From the MINERVA.

Many people believe in the prospect of a general peace, on account of the exhausted state of the nations at war. But this reason is not decisive—France has been three years exhausted, but she carries on war by plundering nations that are not exhausted.

As to Austria, the government is poor; but the emperor has yet immense resources in the pride, the wealth, the spirit, and attachment of his Hungarian subjects; and it is against the character of the house of Austria, and the principles of human nature, to suppose that proud imperial family will succumb tamely to the sacrifices demanded by the French.

Great-Britain is mortgaged to pay the interest of a gigantic debt; and while she is staggering under the load, she is incapable of exerting her natural strength.

As to the United States, it is not improbable that an accommodation of differences may take place with France: not on account of any attachment to our interest or form of government, but because it may happen that the French councils may be convinced, it is their interest not to drive us into hostilities.

John Burk, the fugitive Irishman who formerly published a paper in Boston and has written plays for the amusement of the inhabitants of the United States, has addressed a letter to Harrison G. Otis, Esq. abusing him for calling the cargoes of emigrants from Ireland, "herds of wild Irishmen."

Your Prisoner, (Signed) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

LONDON, July 8. All the King's ships in the river, equipped for service are ordered to drop down to the Nore: they are supposed to be stationed as an immediate reinforcement to Admiral Duncan, the Agincourt, Lancaster and Lion, are expected to sail this day.

Paris Journals of the 11th and 12th inst. were received in town yesterday afternoon, which were brought to Dover in a flag of truce, having on board the M. Spinola, Ambassador from the republic of Genoa to our court.

There are many excellent citizens from Ireland, who have entered into business in the United States; and the Irish people of breeding are remarkable for generosity, hospitality, bravery, and other virtues.

PARIS, June 24. Sir Sidney Smith to General Piebegrn, President of the Council of Five Hundred.

When I learned from my prison that Pignu is elected President of one of the Councils, and Barbe Marbois of the other I rejoice—because this homage paid to virtue, to, to probity, and to talents, affords me a hope that moderation and humanity will reign in France, and establish harmony between our two nations, formed to esteem each other.

I recollect that the non-execution of the decree of death passed against the English prisoners of war, was partly due to your firmness and humanity. You have prevented this blot of barbarism from being fixed on your nation.

I am a prisoner of war—I did not surrender my arms till after an obstinate resistance, and till honour commanded me to do so: persons have pretended to avail about the weakness of my detachment, which dared to measure its strength during three quarters of an hour with those that surrounded us.

I have been imprisoned as a criminal, and I have suffered all the rigours of a solitary confinement during thirteen months. I have made repeated applications to the minister of marine, having been taken at sea; to which however, he has never deigned to give me any answer. I sent a description of my situation to the Executive Directory, without any effect.

I trust the council will not be offended, if I do not address myself to them in the language of a suppliant. Accustomed, owing to my English education, to respect power only for the good it does, and not for the injury it may wish to do me, I think it necessary to state my exact situation.

On Sunday last Lord Malmesbury delivered to M. Letourneur the project of our court, as the basis of the negotiation. In this note Great Britain consents to restore all the conquests made from France, but excepts those of the allies.

BERLIN, July 1. It appears that a considerable misunderstanding prevails, between our court and that of Vienna. A proclamation has been published here in the name of government, which may serve as some explanation of the extraordinary armaments of the Emperor, and of those who are engaged in it.

According to information which we have received the Aulic Council has, without having heard us, caused certain orders to be issued by which, on the demand of one party entirely in favor of the complainants, they have attempted to decide respecting us and our rights, and to detach our subjects from the obligations which they have contracted with us.

LONDON, July 8. A large Portuguese ship from the Brazils, has been retaken by the Dover armed transport, valued at 100,000l.

Paris Journals of the 11th and 12th inst. were received in town yesterday afternoon, which were brought to Dover in a flag of truce, having on board the M. Spinola, Ambassador from the republic of Genoa to our court.

As according to the laws of the empire, we cannot look upon the above orders as valid or obligatory in law, but on the contrary ought to consider them as actual encroachments on our sovereign rights, and singularly vexatious, we do in consequence seriously and graciously admonish by these presents, such of the equestrian order as formerly belonged to the cantons of the equestrian orders of the empire, as well as all other inhabitants resident within the dominion, of lords belonging to the equestrian order, or of neighbouring princes imperial cities, or other foreign proprietors, not to suffer themselves to be led away in any particular from their duties as subjects.

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The only mention made of Lord Malmesbury's embassy, is that his Lordship had his first interview of business with the French commissioners on the 8th inst.

We have received the Paris papers to the 24th and 25th ult. These papers contain some very spirited observations of Dumolard in the council of five hundred on the revolutionary manifestoes of General Buonaparte, in respect to Venice and Genoa; and the conduct of the Directory has been denounced, for having assumed the right of making war and peace; and for concluding alliances without the concurrence of the legislative body, or even any communication made to it.

Given at Berlin, June 24, 1797. (L. S.) Frederick William. Fruchenstein. Sevonischen. Hardenberg. Hurgwitz.

It is contended, in the Paris papers, that a strong anti-revolutionary spirit begins to manifest itself against principles in Lombardy. Pavia and Como are said to be the centers of this fermentation.

A letter from the Hague of the 4th inst. says, that the Texel fleet has not yet sailed, as some of our journals have asserted, but it is certain it will not be long first. All the troops are to be embarked by the 7th of this month, and they are said to amount to 15,000, all of whom are Dutchmen.

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By this day's Mail.

NEW-YORK, September 12. L A T E Foreign Intelligence! Received by the Factor, Captain Kemp, from Falmouth.

LONDON, July 21. KINGS SPEECH. House of Lords, July 20.

At a quarter before four o'clock, his majesty being seated on the Throne, with his crown and robes of state, gave the royal assent to the bills upon table.

The house of commons being ordered to attend, presented themselves with their speaker at their head, who addressed his majesty in a short speech. He recapitulated briefly the leading measures adopted by the house in the course of the session—the provisions made for the internal security, as well as against external crimes.

His majesty then delivered the following most gracious speech to both houses of Parliament: My lords and gentlemen, I cannot put an end to this session of Parliament without returning you my most sincere and cordial thanks for the assiduity and zeal with which you have applied yourselves to the important objects which have required your attention, and for the wisdom and firmness which you have manifested in the new and difficult emergencies for which you have had to provide.

I must particularly express the just sense I entertain of the salutary and efficacious provisions which you made for strengthening the means of national defence, and the measures adopted for obviating the inconveniences which were to be apprehended to ensue from the temporary suspension of payments in cash by the bank—as well as of the promptitude, vigour, and effect, with which you afforded me your assistance and support in suppressing the daring and treasonable mutiny which broke out in a part of my fleet, and in counteracting so dangerous and pernicious an example.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that since the accession of the present Emperor of Russia, the commercial engagements between the two countries have been renewed in such a manner as will, I doubt not, materially conduce to their mutual interests.

My lords and gentlemen, The issue of the important negotiation, in which I am engaged is yet uncertain. But what ever may be the event, nothing will have been wanting, on my part to bring it to a successful termination on such conditions as may be consistent with the security, honour, and essential interests of my dominions. In the mean time, nothing can so much tend to forward the attainment of peace as the continuance of that zeal, exertion and public spirit, of which my subjects have given such conspicuous and honorable proofs, and of which the perseverance and firmness of parliament has afforded them so striking an example.

Then the lord chancellor, by his majesty's command, said— My lord and gentlemen, It is his majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday the 5th day of October next.

Should peace, an event so ardently wished for by all descriptions of men, be attained, the public mind ought to be prepared for the restitution of the ships taken at Toulon by lord Hood. Our ministers have certainly come to that determination; and we corroborate our assertion by the following fact: That one of the commissioners of the Transport Board, after a residence of some days at Portsmouth, whither he had been sent to make a survey, presented within these very few days, to the Toulonelos, who arrived in the Toulon ships, an estimate of the value of those captured by lord Hood, to be transmitted to the French Directory, preparatory to a final adjustment of all differences between the two countries.

A new writ was moved yesterday in the commons for lord Mornington, who is out to India as governor of Madras.

Another writ was moved for Mr. Anstruther, who goes out at the same time as chief justice of Calcutta.

July 22. Saturday evening, after attending their parliamentary duty, the lord chancellor, duke of Portland, and some other peers, and also the speaker of the house of commons, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas and some other members, set off for Beaconsfield, to attend the funeral of the late E. Burke, esq. which took place that evening.

Monday Mr. Dressings, the messenger, arrived at Dover in an open boat from Calais, and reached town at a very late hour on Monday night, with dispatches from lord Malmesbury. These dispatches are said to be of the greatest importance. In all probability they contain the proposals made by the directory as the basis of a pacification. The particulars of the intelligence cannot be known, but report states it generally to be of a favourable nature.

A letter from a gentleman at Lisle, dated July 14, received in a very respectable quarter in town states, "I arrived here but yesterday morning, and I have not yet the means of entering intimately into the train of the negotiation, I rejoice however to inform you that persons the most particularly connected with the commission, speak in sanguine and confident terms of the issue of the conference." Indeed, the general idea is, that the negotiation is likely to have a favorable termination. The pacific sentiments and the long diplomatic experience of the new French director, Barthelmy, cannot fail to have considerable weight with his colleagues. The public opinion in France is strongly in favor of peace, and the same wishes for that desirable event prevail in this country. When these dispositions seriously exist, it is an early prospect of the mind to discover, that the

true interests of both countries in this case corresponds with their inclinations.

The French declare that if we will not only give up our navy and our bank, they will make us as free as Venice itself! Thomas Muir has lately written a letter to the French directory from Cadix, where he is still detained by the wounds he received in the engagement that took place between the Spanish frigate, on board of which he was, and an English ship. He has lost an eye, and one side of his face is totally disfigured. In other respects he is totally out of danger, and will soon set out for Paris.

From a speech of general Buonaparte, published at Milan, it now appears certain, that the Cispadane and Traspadane republics are to be united into one political body, of which Modena, Reggio, Ferrara, Bologna, Romagna, and probably Brescia, are to form constituent parts.

Accounts from Mentz, inserted in the Hamburg Gazette, state, that the French troops who were preparing to quit Nidda, have been ordered by the directory to resume their former position.

The celebrated and once so wealthy bank of Venice has stopped payment, in consequence of the revolutionary transactions, which overturned the ancient Venetian government.

Wednesday advices were received from admiral Duncan, dated off the Texel on Saturday last. By the cutter which brought them, we have the following letter from an officer on board the fleet—

Off the Texel, July 15, 1797. "We are still stationed off here, about five leagues distant from the enemy's fleet, which, according to the observations of an officer who was sent in last Wednesday with a flag of truce, consists of the following force—

5 Ships of 74 guns. 8 — 64. 6 — 50. 4 — 40. 8 Frigates. 2 Sloops. 4 Brigs.

July 23. The Paris journals to the 19th and 19th inst. state, that the executive directory have made the following changes in the ministry, viz. Cochon, minister of police; Truguet, of the marine; Benzec, of the interior; Petiet, of war; and Charles Lacroix, of foreign affairs, were dismissed, and replaced the first by Laroche, the second by Pleville, the third by Francois de Neufchateau, the fourth by general Hoche, and the fifth by Talleyrand Perigord, Merlin, minister of justice, and Ranel, of the finances, remain in office. Barthelmy and Carnot are said to have opposed this arrangement.

Charles Lacroix is to be sent to Lisle to replace Pleville Pelet. Lenour and Talleyrand Perigord were sworn in their new offices on the morning of the 18th.

The executive directory have written a letter to Buonaparte, dated 15th Messidor, to the following purport: The executive directory thinks, citizen general, that it is due to the important services which you have rendered, to manifest to you their satisfaction. It consequently approves of the conduct, both political and military, which you have adopted, especially with regard to Venice and Genoa.

(Signed) CARNOT, President. LEGARDE, Sec. Gen. An Hamburgh mail arrived on Friday. The advices from Vienna state, that the king of Prussia appears determined to enforce his claims upon certain possessions in Franconia by dint of arms, and consequently to set at defiance the authority of the aulic council. On the 6th inst. a strong body of his troops took possession of the fort, and immediately disarmed the soldiers whom they found in the barracks.

The new government of Genoa is fully established, and citizen president Goge now wears a blue and white scarf.

July 25. We have again to notice the non-arrival of any intelligence from France. Ministers were for the whole of yesterday in hourly expectation of receiving a dispatch from lord Malmesbury; but no messenger had reached town when this paper went to press.

The Russian cabinet has ordered its ministers at foreign courts to make six declarations respecting the unhappy Poland, and one of which contains the following article: "If from motives of hatred, on account of this treaty of partition and its results, one of the three high contracting parties should be attacked by any foreign power, the two others promise to join and defend him with all their might and power against such attack."

The form of organization for the Venetian Terra Firma, which Buonaparte has published, is of the following tenor: 1st. The Brescian is to extend as far as the Minicio.

2d. The Veronese is to begin at the Minicio, and to include the country at Bologna.

3d. The Vicentin and Bassiano, with its territory, is to form a department by itself.

4th. The Paduan, the polefine of Rovigo and Adria, as far as the Po, not including what belongs to the Faraurolo, is to form one single department.

5th. The countries of Feltrio, Cadore, and Bellano, are also to form a single department.

6th. The country of Treviso, excepting the district of Moltre, is to form a single department with that of Colla.

7th. The Frioul, including Montfalcone, is to form the last department.

8th. Each department is to be governed