

LONDON, September 23—28.

THE Trelawney Planter, Capt. MacDonald failed on the 26th of July from Jamaica, and in the Gulph of Florida, while in company with the Louisa, Steele, fell in with a fleet of Spanish ships, of which three were register ships, under convoy of two line of battle ships, and three frigates. A gun was fired for Capt. MacDonald to hoist out his boat, and come on board the Spanish Commodore, which he did not comply with, stating that his ship was indifferently manned, and his boats were leaky: but it being late in the evening, he informed the Commodore that he would remain in company all night. The Commodore on this sent his own boat, and Capt. MacDonald was carried on board the Spanish man of war.

As soon as he came on board, he was ordered into a most cruel species of confinement, practised on board Spanish ships, and called the Bilboes. He was stretched along on his back, between two planks of wood, and a third piece of wood stretched across the chest—his face exposed to a vertical sun, and in this posture he lay for sixteen hours, and must have fallen a victim to the torture and the heat, but for the humanity of some of the crew, who occasionally eased his torture, and gave him room to turn.

During this time, an officer and fifteen men boarded the Trelawney Planter, and rummaged the cargo, and overhauled every part of the ship. After they had made their report, he was dismissed without any explanation of, or apology for, this outrage. He found, that tho' every thing had been put in disorder, nothing had been carried away. He made regular minutes of this gross and scandalous insult, committed on the flag of England, which, on his arrival in town on Monday last, he transmitted to the Secretary of State, for the information of his Majesty's Ministers.

The Captain was yesterday examined by Mr. Pitt and a committee of the Privy Council; when he confirmed the narrative he had previously transmitted to the Secretary of State, in every particular—He was questioned very minutely as to the course in which he was steering—the latitude, and his precise words in answer to the first summons he received to go on board the Spanish Commodore.

He was ordered to attend the Privy Council again this morning, and to bring along with him a gentleman, who was his passenger, and his first mate. Captain MacDonald is a gentleman of unimpeached veracity—a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and who is known and highly respected by several Admirals in the service.

The public indignation at this insult offered to the British flag is very great, and may possibly cause a very speedy termination to be put to the negotiations concerning Nootka Sound. "Are English seamen, engaged in the fair commerce of their country, to be abused in their persons and property, and the British flag to be insulted with impunity?" Is the general exclamation.—Many Naval Gentlemen, however, take a different view of the affair, and assert, that the Captain's refusal to go on board a Spanish ship of war, when required so to do, warranted the treatment which he experienced, as the request was, in every respect, agreeable to the established practice.

Nothing further has transpired respecting the contents of the dispatches brought by the last messenger from Madrid; but we can assert from very good authority, that they do not by any means decide the dispute between the two courts, indeed, the silence of the Gazette is sufficient, without any comment on our part.

Government have chartered two large store-ships, which are fitting out at Deptford, and are to carry guns the same as in war time; they are to carry over the next convicts to Botany Bay, and to sail before Christmas.

Four Dutch men of War, belonging to Vice Admiral Kingsbergen's squadron, which had lately come to anchor in the Texel, sailed again on Thursday last; but their destination is a profound secret.

Accounts are received at the island of Jersey, by boats from St. Maloes, Granville, and Cherbourg, that 700 sailors were sent last week from the latter to Brest, to be put on board French men of war: 200 men are to be sent from St. Maloes, this week, and a number from Granville. These accounts further say, seamen are pouring daily from all quarters to Brest, where the greatest expedition is making to fit out the ships ordered by the nation.

The Cortes, to which the King of Spain proposes submitting the present critical situation of affairs, is a meeting of the Grandees, and high officers of the State. The term *Cortes* signifies Courts.

However improbable it may appear to some, that the Spaniards should treat Capt. M'Donald as has been represented, the case is not new. In 1739, they cut off the ears of a Capt. Jenkins, and afterwards repented of it in a long and ruinous war with this country.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE.

THE afflicting recital of the dreadful affair at Nancy, gave rise to many warm elogiums on the

conduct of M. de Boullie; and at last the following decree, suggested by M. Mirabeau, was passed:—

"The National Assembly decrees, That the directory of the department de la Meurthe, and the Municipalities of Nanci and Luneville, shall be thanked for their zeal.

"That the National Guards, who accompanied M. de Bouille to Nanci, shall be thanked for the patriotism and civic bravery which they displayed in the re-establishment of order at Nanci.

"That M. de Silly shall be thanked for the heroic manner which he exposed himself.

"That the Nation shall provide for the widows and children of those who have nobly fallen in the execution of the decrees of the National Assembly.

"That the General, and the Regular troops which he commanded, shall be applauded for having nobly done their duty; and that the commissaries appointed shall go immediately to Nanci to take the necessary steps to maintain peace in that town, and to obtain exact information of those facts which may insure punishment to the guilty, of whatever rank."

Sept. 4 The President read a letter of resignation from M. Necker to the National Assembly, in which he pleads the want of health, and the uneasiness of a wife equally virtuous and dear to him, as the motives which have determined him to withdraw wholly to the asylum which he had quitted to devote himself to the service of the state. The National Assembly has demanded an account of the receipt and expenditure of the public treasure, from the 1st May, 1789, to the 1st of May, 1790. "I have," he says, "brought it up to the 21st of July." And he believes it may be already known if there exists in it any article of expence by which he may be liable to blame. If there should, he offers and leaves in guarantee his house in Paris, his house in the country, and his property in the Royal Treasury, which has long amounted to 2,400,000 livres; and he requests only to draw out 400,000 livres, which the state of his affairs on leaving Paris renders necessary. The remainder he commits to the custody of the Nation. He concludes his letter in these words:

"The envy and injustice which I have experienced, suggested to me the idea of the guarantee which I now offer; but when I compare these with my conduct in the administration of the finances, I cannot help adding it to the singularities which have distinguished my life.

"I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) "NECKER."

While this letter was reading, a profound silence prevailed in the Assembly, and the resignation of M. Necker was received as a matter perfectly indifferent.

Sept. 17. M. Nourissart presented a report of the committee of Finances, relative to a dreadful fire which has consumed a great part of the city of Limoges to ashes. By this unfortunate event, 800 families have lost their all, and are consequently reduced to the lowest ebb of distress. The Minister of Finances was directed to send 60,000 livres for the relief of the sufferers.

September 18. A petition was read from the Municipality of Versailles, stating, that the town of Versailles was threatened with an armed banditti of above 2000 men, who hovered in the park of Versailles under pretence of hunting, but in fact subsisted by plunder. The Assembly ordered the matter to be taken into immediate consideration by the Committee on Feudal rights and Domains.

A report was made of a very extraordinary nature. An order had been given by the executive power for fitting out at the port of Brest, with all expedition, the ship *Le Ferme*. She was accordingly prepared, and on the point of sailing, when she was, to the surprize of the whole fleet, stopped by the Municipality of Brest, without their assigning the least reason for this extraordinary conduct. How they will excuse this piece of Quixotism it is not easy to conceive.

The Assembly passed a decree, importing that it is a fundamental part of the French Constitution, that no Municipal or Administrative body shall take upon them to oppose the departure of a ship of war; and that the King be addressed to cause this decree to be published at all the seaports of the kingdom.

A report was brought up from the Committee of Finances and Domains, relative to the commotions in the park of Versailles, and a decree was passed in substance, That the Municipality of Versailles, the Mayor of Paris and the commandant of the National Guards of Paris, should use their utmost endeavours to disperse this band of robbers; and that twelve Members should wait on his Majesty, to entreat him to take measures for the attainment of the same end.

Extract from the address of the people of Rouen to the National Assembly, against the assignats, or notes, Sept. 3.

"True it is, indeed, that notes of 24 livres will circulate without difficulty from the richest man in the kingdom, down to the humble artisans, labourers and manufacturers; but when once they have got among this latter class of peo-

ple, who are the most numerous, and at the same time the most useful in the community, they will instantly produce discontents, murmurs and perhaps insurrections: and who can tell to what length the artist or laborer will go, when he finds he cannot procure with his note, without absolutely sacrificing it, the smallest share of the commonest necessities of life?—Upon this plan the nation is to be given up to be ruined by holders of capital, and to be distressed by a few men of wealth—Persons of this description, will have it in their power to discharge the heaviest debts with the most trifling considerations—and the people alone, for a succession of years will have to bear a loss, inseparable from the exchange of the small notes.

"The lower class are not deeply skilled in accounts; and every day, every moment of their lives, they will be at the mercy of these stock-jobbing patriots, who being no longer in a situation to plunder the public treasury, are now preparing to direct their engines against the simple and honest ploughman, and the poor and industrious artisan, who from inexperience, will inevitably fall a prey to their treachery and perfidious ways of dealing.

"This can admit of no dispute, that the more the notes are reduced, and subdivided into smaller denominations, the more they will circulate among a numerous class of useful citizens, who are the main support of agriculture and commerce; and of consequence, in proportion to the number of them that you render discontented, so many more enemies do you make to the revolution from among these very people, who with good usage would be its principal succour and support.

"The service of the army, the marine, the charitable houses; none of these can be supported without money. Hitherto the subsidy, the twentieths, and the poll-tax have been submitted to, because these taxes were received in quarter parts, and the quotas of few people amounted to more than 200 livres, and consequently in this case might be paid off with notes. But, the moment you have decreed the circulation of assignats (or notes) of 100, 50, and 24 livres it is evident that seven-eighths of the above taxes will be paid off in paper, and what possible resource will there, in that case, be left for government?

"There is but one method to discharge the public demands, and which will answer every beneficial purpose of the assignats, without their inconveniences.—This is to pay off immediately the whole sum wanted, in notes from the financier's office, or national acknowledgments, which shall bear an interest of five per cent. and to be received equally with gold and silver in paying the national dues.

"By such a measure, we shall put into the hands of the public creditors, property that can be transferred, and at least equal in value to what may be termed the domain or patrimony of the nation."

AUGUSTA, October 30.

A report prevails here that brigadier general McGillivray has been sent to some of the Spanish mines. It is said that Mr. Secretary Howard waited on the general on his arrival in the St. Mary, with compliments from the governor of East-Florida, and intimating his earnest desire of seeing the new brigadier, and hence it is concluded that this visit terminated in introducing the general to the supposed place of his present residence. Various are the conjectures occasioned by this report; some maintain that a war with Spain is inevitable, and that the dignity of the United States, and the magnanimity of the Secretary at war can never brook the insult—whilst others insist that it is a meritorious act of the Spaniards, in punishing the American general as a deserted Spanish colonel.

CHARLESTON, November 9.

Yesterday the following gentlemen were publicly proclaimed representatives to Congress for the State of South-Carolina.

WILLIAM SMITH for Charleston district; ROBERT BARNWELL, for the united districts of Beaufort and Orangeburgh; DANIEL HUGER, for the united districts of Georgetown and Cheraus; THOMAS SUMPTER, for the district of Camden; and THOMAS TUDOR TUCKER, for the district of Ninety Six.

A gentleman from the interior part of this state, assures us, that the crops are generally more abundant than usual, which circumstance affords the pleasing prospect of giving the honest farmer relief in present difficulties, and adding to his future views of happiness.

Died at Georgetown, on the first instant, Dr. BEDFORD WILLIAMS, late a surgeon in the continental army—a gentleman whose merit and abilities in the line of his profession, placed him high in the esteem of a very numerous acquaintance—he was an affectionate husband, a tender parent, and a generous friend. On the day following ALEXANDER KEITH, Esq; of the same place.

A HINT TO FARMERS.

WHEAT.

WHEN this valuable grain has attained its full plumpness, and begins to shew its ripening color, it should be reaped and laid a few days with the ears a little elevated, to harden before it is bound up, and afterwards stand at least a week or ten days in shock, which will be the means of its proving sweeter, weighing heavier, and yielding a much greater proportion of flour, and less of bran, than when it is suffered to stand on the ground till the ears become inverted, and the corn parched and shrivelled; but this is far from being the whole of the evil, for the straw, when cut in a dry and brittle state, is not so valuable for thatch, fodder, or litter, as it is when cut in a greener state; and when a brisk wind happens, there is frequently a loss sustained of one third of the crop.

ANECDOTE of Dr. JOHNSON.

THE settled aversion Dr. Johnson felt towards an infidel, he expressed to all ranks, and at all times, without the smallest reserve. For tho' on common occasions he paid great deference to birth or title, yet his regard for truth and virtue never gave way to meaner considerations. We talk'd of a dead wit one evening, and somebody praised him:—"Let us never," said he, "praise talents so ill employed, Sir. We foul our mouths by commending such infidels." Allow him the *lumieres* at least, intreated one of the company:—"I do allow him, Sir," replied Johnson, "just enough to light him to Hell."