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S M Y R N A, Nov. 17.

THE last letters from the Island of Tenos announce, that several kirlaugis, a cutter and a galliot, were cruising on that coast, and formed a small Squadron under the Russian flag. One of these vessels is commanded by the famous pirate Andrew Steculi, known by the prize which he made some time since of a Dutch vessel: another is commanded by Stavili Caravias. They say they have the Empress's orders to disarm, but as they have not been paid, the sea must indemnify them. Such neighbors begin to cause uneasiness.

P A R I S, November 24.

The discussion and amendment of the decree relative to the refractory priests, still occupies the august assembly of this nation.—Every article, every letter is cavilled at—but the article which has caused the greatest riot and tumult in the senate, is that which suppresses even the traces of the ancient denomination of the clergy. Mankind are naturally attached to their old prejudices—and you will divest a priest of the title of citizen with more ease than you will persuade him he is not a member of the clergy.

The bishop of Lyons, in opposing this extraordinary measure, delivered one of the most eloquent orations I ever heard—no pedantry—no tricks of priestcraft. The language was that of a philosopher—a man—and a good citizen—bold, nervous, and full of sound argument.—“He declared, that if such an edict was passed, it would, on the one part, inspire in the people an indifference for religion, which in the annals of the world had been ever changing. On the other, it would aid the powerful effort of *Theism*, to establish itself upon the shattered ruins of the gospel. Religion he revered. Theology was an aristocratic work, framed out of the religion of the gospel, which is more democratic than the constitution. Reason, as it became more enlightened, separated by its beams the brilliancy of religion from the midst of theology, whose cradle I first find in the hands of Constantine.” This speech applauded with enthusiasm, was ordered the honors of impression, and the article was adjourned, *sine die*.

The remainder of the decree was read over, and concluded yesterday with the usual tumult, not unlike Homer's sublime image of the Greeks, rushing to council; or the Trojans' shout when they gave battle, which was keener than the screams of a million of cranes before an approaching storm.

Six millions more of assignats are to be burnt this week, which will make the whole number already destroyed, amount to 336 millions.

M. La Fayette has been elected commander of the fourth legion of national guards.

L O N D O N, February 4.

This day his Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being seated on the Throne with the usual solemnity, Sir F. Molyneux, gentleman usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a message from his Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, his Majesty was pleased to make the following most gracious speech:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE many proofs which you have given of your affectionate attachment to my person and family, leave me no doubt of your participating in the satisfaction which I derive in the happy event of the marriage which has been celebrated between my son the Duke of York, and the eldest daughter of my good brother and ally the King of Prussia: and I am persuaded I may expect your cheerful concurrence in enabling me to make a suitable provision for their establishment.

Since I last met you in Parliament, a definitive treaty has been concluded, under my mediation and that of my allies the King of Prussia and the States-General of the United Provinces, between the Emperor and the Ottoman Porte, on principles which appear the best calculated to prevent future disputes between those powers.

Our intervention has also been employed, with a view to promote a pacification between the Empress of Russia and the Porte; and conditions have been agreed on between us and the former of those powers, which we undertook to recommend to the Porte, as the re-establishment of

peace on such terms appeared to be, under the existing circumstances, a desirable event for the general interests of Europe. I am in expectation of speedily receiving the account of the conclusion of the definitive treaty of peace, preliminaries having some time since been agreed upon between those powers.

I have directed copies of the definitive treaty, between the Emperor and the Porte, to be laid before you, as well as such papers as are necessary to shew the terms of peace, which have been under discussion during the negotiation with the Court of Peterburgh.

I regret that I am not yet enabled to inform you of the termination of the war in India;—but the success which has lately attended the distinguished bravery and exertions of the officers and troops under the able conduct of Lord Cornwallis, and the recent advices from that quarter, afford reasonable ground to hope that the war may be speedily brought to an honorable conclusion.

The friendly assurances which I receive from foreign powers, and the general state of affairs in Europe, appear to promise to my subjects the continuance of their present tranquility. Under these circumstances I am induced to think that some immediate reduction may safely be made in our naval and military establishments; and my regards for the interests of my subjects renders me at all times desirous of availing myself of any favorable opportunity to diminish the public expences.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It will, I am persuaded, give you great satisfaction to learn, that the extraordinary expences incurred in the course of last year, have in a great measure been already defrayed by the grants of the session. The state of our resources, will, I trust, be found more than sufficient to provide for the remaining part of those expences, as well as for the current service of the year, the estimates for which I have directed to be laid before you.

I entertain the pleasing hope, that the reductions which may be found practicable in the establishments, and the continued encrease of the revenue, will enable you, after making due provision for the several branches of the public service, to enter upon a system of gradually relieving my subjects from some part of the existing taxes, at the same time giving additional efficacy to the plan for the reduction of the national debt, on the success of which our future ease and security essentially depend.

With a view to this important object, let me also recommend it to you to turn your attention to the consideration of such measures as the state of the funds and of public credit may render practicable and expedient towards a reduction in the rate of interest of any of the annuities which are now redeemable.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The continued and progressive improvement in the internal situation of the country, will, I am confident, animate you in the pursuit of every measure which may be conducive to the public interest.

It must at the same time operate as the strongest encouragement to a spirit of useful industry among all classes of my subjects, and above all, must confirm and encrease their steady and zealous attachment to that constitution, which we have found by long experience, to unite the inestimable blessings of liberty and order, and to which, under the favor of providence, all our other advantages are principally to be ascribed.

The first object of the Minister's plan of finance will, it is reported, be the annihilation of the 32 millions of 4 per cent. stock, which is to be converted into three per cents in this manner: the Minister will borrow the amount in three per cent. consols, which, at their present price, yield only 3 1-4th per cent.—to this will be given 10 per cent. in money, amounting to 3,200,000. which the bank has agreed to lend on Exchequer bills at 3 per cent. This single operation will produce an annual saving to the nation of 220,000. interest.

Poland, which but a short time since, presented so pacific an appearance, seems at present as if some clouds were gathering in her hemisphere. Two or three of her nobles delighted more with the power of aristocracy, than the franchises lately granted to the people, have seceded and protested against the new constitution; and if they

can meet with support in any neighboring powers, are doubtless ready to throw every thing into confusion. Of those from whom they might have looked for aid, Prussia and Vienna have already testified their consent in the proposed successor to the monarchy, and the enlargement of the privileges of the people.

The treaty of mutual guarantee and defensive alliance lately concluded between the Empress of Russia and the King of Sweden, for the protection of their European dominions, is continue for eight years.

His Majesty's speech gives a more favorable account of the state of the country, than has been done for several years past. A system of gradually relieving the people from some part of the existing taxes, is no less novel, than it will be agreeable to the public in general.

Last week in the National Assembly, M. Isnard made use of the following expression:—“The traitors of every rank shall fall by your hands; the generous nation pardoned once, it will pardon no more; so King and Ministers take warning!”

The Turkish Ambassador to Vienna, being complimented by the Clergy, returned an answer very singular, and not much to be expected from the mouth of a Mahometan: “I commend myself,” said Ratie, “to your prayers. We all have the same God, and only pray to him in different languages.”

EDINBURGH, January 25.

BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Monday, there was a very respectable and numerous meeting of the Proprietors of the Bank of Scotland, who unanimously agreed to apply to Parliament for leave to bring in a bill to allow the Proprietors to augment their capital stock from three hundred thousand to six hundred thousand pounds Sterling.

The Bank of Scotland was constituted, by act of Parliament, before the Union (anno. 1695) and is the first and only Bank in Scotland established by authority of Parliament. It has been of great utility, by its branches, in promoting trade, manufactures, and agriculture, in different parts of the country. When the augmentation takes place, the Bank will be enabled to extend its credit still farther, so as to meet the demands which the great increase of trade, manufactures, and agriculture, requires, and thus become more extensively useful.

D U B L I N, January 27.

IRISH HOUSE OF COMMONS, JAN. 25.

The committee of supply reported, that they had come to a resolution “that a supply be granted to his majesty.”

ROMAN CATHOLICS.

Sir Hercules Langrishe rose to introduce his “bill for removing certain restrictions that affect the Roman Catholics.”—The sum of all the privileges they had obtained, was:

The full enjoyment of property,
The free exercise of religion,
And the guardianship of their children.

But their good conduct deserved further favor—and to what they already enjoyed, he proposed to add:

A power to educate their children at home, by taking away the oaths which prevented their receiving academic degrees.

To allow them the practice and the profession of the law.

To allow them to intermarry with protestants; and

To remove their present inability of taking apprentices.

For these purposes he moved for leave to bring in a bill.

Right Hon. Mr. Hobart seconded the motion. After some debate, the question was put and leave unanimously given to bring in the bill.

Mr. O'Hara, then presented a petition, praying to allow Roman Catholics to be admitted into the army—into places in the revenue, and the law—and into places of trust and profit.

The petition was universally reprobated, and was at length withdrawn by Mr. O'Hara.

During the debate, a stranger was observed among the members. The Speaker ordered him to be taken into custody; but he made his escape through a back passage before the Serjeant could reach him. It afterwards appeared that the stranger was Mr. Burke, son of the Right Hon. Edmund Burke, and agent for the Roman Catholics in England and Ireland.