

We are assured that a letter dated the 5th April has been received by a gentleman of this city, which says that the preliminaries of a general peace have been agreed on—The principal conditions of which are, that the Rhine shall be the boundary of the French Republic—that the Emperor shall be indemnified at the expense of Holland, that the English shall restore all their conquests made from France, and shall not retain those made from Holland in India; but that notwithstanding this pacific perspective, France has dispatched General Rochambeau with 17 fail of the line and troops to take possession of the Spanish part of St. Domingo. On the 5th May, it does not appear that the English had made any attempt on Guadaloupe.

Extract of a Letter.

from an American gentleman in France, dated Paris, 24th March, 1796, to his friend in Philadelphia. "I yet remain without the pleasure of a line from you, and now have only time to say to you not to send any property here, as the prices are much fallen, and no prospects of sale at present."

"Yesterday a decree passed for the issuing of Mandates, to be received in all cases as specie, which is forbidden to be bought, sold, or dealt in, in any way. You are only to buy or sell in Mandates, under the penalty of 4 years imprisonment in chains, and a heavy fine—an equal punishment on him who refuses to receive when tendered. The debts due I expect will now soon be paid, as the paper will issue in a few days."

Foreign Intelligence.

By the Snow Hebe, Capt. Gay, in F. r. y. Nine days from London, we have received English papers to the 8th of April, from which the following articles are extracted.

LONDON, April 7.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, April 5.

TAX UPON DOGS.

Mr. Lygon presented a petition from the Mayor, Aldermen, &c. of the city of Worcester, praying for a Tax to be laid on Dogs.

The House resolved itself into a Committee upon a petition from the county of Leicester, praying for a Tax upon Dogs.

Mr. Dent stated his reasons, as well as those of others whom he had consulted, for suggesting this Tax. He declared that his only intension was the benefit and relief of the poor, who required every attention and support to be given them in these times of scarcity and dearth of provisions. This tax would go in relief of the poor-rates, and towards the better sustenance of the poor. The immense consumption of provisions by dogs, was confirmed by letters he had received from all parts of the country. The dreadful disorder of the hydrophobia was also owing to the increase of dogs—no fewer than thirty-three objects had been brought into the infirmary at Manchester during the last year, with this disorder. This tax was solicited by many. Since the year 1755, various petitions had been presented to the House in favor of the taxation of dogs. The great consumption of good and wholesome provisions by dogs was a matter of national alarm; wheat, flour, barley, and oatmeal, and broken victuals from the tables of the affluent were bestowed upon these animals instead of being given to the poor. He declared, that the number of dogs had increased lately to such a degree as to cause not only annoyance but alarm. Some parts of the country, he understood, were divided into districts for the sake of rearing these animals. In fact, Great Britain appeared to be one grand hospital for dogs. Mr. Dent wished to enquire into the number of dogs, and the produce of this proposed tax. He had good reason to believe, that the population of this country amounted to ten millions; computing one family as composing five persons, he thought the average of one dog to a family, not too large; in this case there would be two millions of dogs. Supposing that the operation of this tax should reduce the two millions to one, he would propose to lay on a tax, without distinction, of two and sixpence on each dog, which would amount to the sum of 125,000*l.* a year. After stating his grounds for taking the population of this kingdom at 10 millions, and calculating the increase of population at different periods, from the time of the Conquest to the present, Mr. Dent proceeded to state that this tax would be both popular and useful. He was happy to find, that what had so long been a severe burden to the poor, might now be turned to their advantage. What Mungo said in the Padlock to the hamper, "I have carried you long enough, you shall now carry me," might be well applied to the operation of this tax on the poor: "We have fed you long enough at our expense, you shall now feed us." The destruction of sheep by dogs, which he had formerly stated at 15,000 annually, he had since learnt amounted to 50,000. He read letters from Cheshire and Devonshire; in one letter an account was given of upwards of 400 sheep being killed by one dog; and that 200 men, with dogs, went in pursuit of it, and a considerable reward offered for its apprehension. Another dog had been found destroying sheep in the neighbourhood of Walmer Castle, and when he mentioned the inscription on the collar of "Right Honourable," he would leave it to the Committee to fill up the blank. —With respect to the consumption of corn and provisions he stated, that allowing a dog to consume as much as cost one penny a day, the sum total amounted to 700,000*l.* more than was paid for the relief of the aged poor. If that sum were laid out in buying meal and flour, it would purchase 3,400,000 and odd pounds weight, and would very much alleviate the distresses caused by the present scarcity. In a letter from Kingston it was stated, that in the neighbouring parishes, nine out of ten of the sheep heads and appurtenances were bot up for the use of dogs, so that no poor person had any chance of procuring them for their families. He declared that the quantity of flour consumed in the support of dogs was so great as to excite astonishment: one gentleman very well known made a contract with his mealman to the amount of 800*l.* a year to serve his dogs. A pack of fox hounds, which could not be kept for less than 1000*l.* a year, being obliged in their return from a

chase to stop at a country town, every baker's shop was ransacked to supply them with bread, and it frequently happened on such occasions that not a loaf was left for the inhabitants.

Mr. Dent stated, that the Board of Agriculture had been consulted, and from various reports it had received from its correspondents in some of the Northern Counties, it appeared that sheep suffered considerably from the ravages of dogs, and that the farmer thought himself happy if only one half of his sheep were saved. One gentleman's flock of sheep had been driven by dogs into the sea, and but few escaped; while others, driven by those animals into pools and ditches, were numerous beyond conception. He suggested, whether an additional tax on unkenelled hounds, which did more mischief than could be calculated, might not be proper, but he thought that an exception from the tax ought however to be made in favor of dogs necessarily kept by blind men. Mr. Dent concluded an able speech, in which he displayed much knowledge of the subject, by moving, "That this committee do resolve, that a duty of 2*s.* 6*d.* per ann. be imposed on dogs of every description."

Sir Rob. Salubury seconded the motion.

Mr. Pitt declared, that as he did not wish unnecessarily to take up the attention of the House, he should only say a few words on the subject. He was ready to admit, that there was nothing unseasonable or improper in the principle of the tax brought forward by the Hon. Gentleman, but he feared that such a tax, by the proposed mode of laying it on, would go to the extirpation of the canine species. In the plan of taxation then held out, nothing was felt for the owners of the dogs, particularly for the poorer classes, who placed many comforts in the possession of those animals, who were in many instances found useful and even necessary to labour. He perfectly agreed in the principle, as far as it went to take per centage on dogs, but at the same time wished, that houses not subject to the assessed taxes should be exempted from the tax. Every person living in such houses, and keeping a dog, should pay no more than 1*s.* per annum. But he could by no means admit that the amount of the tax in general ought to be applied to parochial purposes. The exigencies of the State were certainly entitled, and had a most undeniable right to the product of a tax on dogs, as well as to that of any other tax; nor could he see why an exception should be made in the present instance to the general system of taxation. He had, however, no objection to let the duty of 1*s.* to which the poor keeping dogs and living in houses not assessed would be subject, go to the relief of the poor. With respect to that which was to be paid by those living in assessed houses, he was of opinion that it should amount to 3*s.* There could be no difficulty in collecting this sum, as it would be levied in the same way as assessed taxes were. He would propose, that the product of this tax should be differently applied, 2*s.* to the services of the public, and 1*s.* to the wants of the poor. But though he generally proposed that the tax should amount to 3*s.* there were many exceptions which might take place in the progress of the Bill, when it came under the consideration of the House, and many things which would probably admit of a just diminution of that sum, when they offered themselves to discussion. It was then unnecessary for him to enter into a detail of the distinctions which it might be proper to adopt; and he would content himself with moving "That a sum not exceeding 3*s.* be paid on dogs of all descriptions." This, Mr. Pitt observed, was a general proposition, which might afterwards be modified with respect to the diminution of the sum, as the necessity or justice of the case required.

Mr. Buxton was of opinion, that a poor man who kept a dog, and paid the tax, could not come with any propriety to the parish for relief. The Right Hon. Gentleman had observed, that the poor found many comforts in the possession of those animals, but it was also undeniable, that they kept dogs for very improper purposes.

Mr. Wilberforce declared, that notwithstanding he had originally professed himself an enemy to the tax, he found from every possible information he could collect, that it would answer many beneficial purposes. Humanity was deeply interested in the success of the tax, as cases of Hydrophobia, which but too frequently occurred, would be considerably diminished. And though it might decrease the comforts of children, it would bring forth more essential comforts, as they would, by its operation, be less exposed to the fatal consequences of that dreadful malady.

Mr. Lechmere thought that an equal tax would not answer the object proposed by the friends of the measure. Those gentlemen who kept packs of fox hounds, harrises, and setting dogs, should be taxed in proportion. And, though he was aware that he should call down on his head the vengeance of the whole association of Dogagers, he could not help declaring, that lap-dogs should be taxed in a greater proportion. What was sufficient to furnish food for whole families, was ridiculously spent on those useless animals; and it was no uncommon thing to see valets six feet high going with lap-dogs to take the air in the Green Park, for the purposes of whetting their appetites to regale on delicacies and dainties, the expense of which might be so much more humanely employed.

Sir G. P. Turner was convinced that the inhabitants of the county of Leicester were to a man unanimous, not only in desiring, but in praying for the tax. With respect to the execution of dogs, which seemed to be seriously apprehended, he had no objection to the introduction of a clause in the bill, inflicting a punishment on those who should hang them. The number of dogs in the kingdom was very considerable, and was a most alarming grievance. A gang of Gipsies had been lately seen near Oxford, attended by a posse comitatus of these animals; they were followed by no less than 13. — When he was a boy he well remembered that they were very troublesome in church, and persons were employed to whip them out; and a dog had even the impudence to bark in that house at the very time when a noble Lord was engaged in a most important duty, that of opening the Budget. The reply of that ingenious minister was not easily forgotten; who, when asked what new member it

was that interrupted him, replied, "it was a member for *Barbshire*." Sir G. P. Turner concluded, by declaring, that he triumphed at finding the tax was in a general sense thought to be necessary, whether the product was applied to the revenue of the country or to the wants of the poor. It had been talked of in his father's time, and it should now be realized; it was necessary to strike while the iron was hot.

Capt. Berkeley said a few words. Mr. Dent and Lechmere explained.

The original motion was negatived, and Mr. Pitt's motion agreed to without a division.

The House having returned, Mr. Hobart bro't up the report, which was ordered to be received to-morrow.

Gen. Smith moved that there be laid before the house an account of corn imported, and bounties paid thereon in the month of March. Agreed to. Adjourned.

The intelligence of tranquility being fully restored in Sardinia, which was inserted in the Florence Gazette is contradicted in the most positive terms by the last letters from Corsica of the 27th ult. which state, that the inhabitants are still divided into different factions, and that numbers of them have proceeded in open insurrection to St. Bonifacio; that the Viceroy is arrested; and that the insurgents are to put themselves under the protection of the French Republic.

The Imperial army, under the orders of General Beaulieu, is to consist of 50,000 men, composing 46 battalions of foot, and 36 squadrons of horse. The Piedmontese army consists of 40,000 men.

Yesterday 250,000*l.* sterling in Exchequer bills were issued by Government; which in the present scarcity of money, has run them up to a very high discount.

As a proof among many others of the present great scarcity of money, one of the 20,000*l.* prizes was discounted a few days since at the enormous rate of 40 per cent. The prize is payable in three months, and was sold for 18,000*l.* sterling only.

PORTSMOUTH, April 5.

The Squadron under the command of Vice Admiral Colpoys, that yesterday evening dropped down to St. Helen's, preparatory to sailing on a cruise, came back this morning in consequence of an Admiralty order, to enable enable Admiral Colpoys to be of the Court of Inquiry on Admiral Cornwallis, which commences to-morrow morning.

Admiral Lord Bridport and Admiral Pole arrived this day; they are to be members of the said Court, which will consist of ten Admirals with Lord Howe, President.

The following are the Flag Officers and Commanders summoned to form the Court.

Flag-Officers.

- Earl Howe, Admiral of the Fleet,
Sir Peter Parker, Bart. Admiral of the White.
Lord Bridport, ditto.
G. Vandepur, Esq. Vice Admiral of the White.
Sir Roger Curtis, Bart. Rear Admiral of the Red.
John Colpoys, Esq. Vice Admiral of the Blue.
H. Harvey, Esq. ditto.
R. R. Bligh, Esq. ditto.
C. M. Pole, Esq. Rear Admiral of the Blue.
Captains.
E. E. Nugent, Esq.
Ch. Powell Hamilton, Esq.
Edmund Dod, Esq.
Sir George Home, Bart.
Judge Advocate, Sir George Jackson, Bart.

We understand that the Minister has settled his taxes, in lieu of that laid upon calicoes, which made part of the budget. The taxes are on dogs; and an heavy toll upon all Gentlemen's Carriages which pass through turnpikes.

The Committee for enquiring into the causes of the present scarcity of money, in submitting their proposition to Mr. Pitt, had no intention of making his or their judgement final on this important operation. After learning the minister's sentiments, it is intended to call a general meeting of the merchants of London, to know their opinion, and whether it is likely to answer that general good effect which is the object of the proposed plan.

We understand that the paper to be issued is to be at six months date, but redeemable at sight (the same as Bank Notes,) if the holders prefer it.—The solidity of this paper is to be sanctioned by the signature of a certain number of the most respectable merchants and others, who may be friendly to the plan; and to give this paper a greater degree of currency, it is to bear a premium of 1*l.* 18*s.* per cent. The reason of the notes being drawn at six months date, is in order not to interfere with the Bank Charter, which precludes any body of men from issuing notes payable within that period.

We are informed by a letter from Hamburg of the 11th inst. that Prince Frederick of Orange is arrived in that city, and after a stay of a few hours, proceeded on his journey to Vienna.

On the 10th inst. arrived at Augsburgh from Verona, the Duke of Duras, on his way to London, where he is to reside as the Minister of Louis XVIII. Letters from Turin of the 9th ult. advise that the most vigorous preparations continue to be made for the ensuing campaign; that strong reinforcements are expected from Germany; that the French have been obliged by the late severe frost to fall back, without making any attempt against Ceva, which it was feared they intended to attack; and that the Genoese endeavor to put the fortrels of Gavi in the most respectable state of defence.

In the Sitting of the Council of Elders of the 29th ult. Lafondelbas maintained, that the discount of the Territorial Mandates amounted to 75 per cent. He was interrupted by violent murmurs and grossly insulted, but nobody undertook to prove the untruth of his assertion. Notwithstanding the rigorous law tending to support the credit of that paper-money, it is not likely to meet with more success than the assignats.

Sir James Bland Burgeis, of rhyming notoriety, though he attempts the task of elegant poetry, is, we understand the author of the wretched Prologue

to Vortigern, which is as devoid of fine taste, as the play is of the beauties of Shakspeare.

FRANKFORT, March 28.

We are assured in a German Print, that the French are preparing to evacuate Dusseldorf, which is to be occupied by Prussian troops. The fortresses of Konigstein and Falkenstein, are putting in the best state of defence.

The General of artillery, Count de Werneck, is arrived here to take on him the government of this City.

The inhabitants of Manheim have been ordered to lay in provisions for 6 months. The lines which the Austrians have erected near Manheim, contain upwards of twenty principal batteries, and the environs of Rheingelshausen, &c. have been put under water, by which several thousand acres of land have been rendered sterile for this year. The Imperial armies on the Rhine have received 90,000 cwt*s.* of provisions, and 19 millions of cartridges are ready. The Imperial artillery of reserve, which was posted on the Lahn, have received orders to proceed to Mentz, and the troops between Neuwied and Wetzlar are also making retrograde movements.

LONDON, April 5.

Yesterday a variety of letters and dispatches were received at Mr. Dundas and Lord Grenville's offices; and also at the German office, St. James's, from the continent; which were conveyed by a messenger to the King at Windsor. They are all said uniformly to signify that a mediation is certainly on foot, and that a pacification among the present belligerent powers is to be expected in the course of the summer.

The Prince and Princess of Orange are, we understand, returned to Hampton Court, after seeing their daughter-in-law and her infant child embark for Germany.

The Emperor is to have a loan from England. The precise sum is not publicly known: some say four, others five millions. And many believe that the campaign will not be opened, on his part, until he receives the money; and that this is the cause of the present delay in opening the campaign.

April 6.

Another German m*ss*l arrived yesterday. It brings as usual, intimations of such a discordant opposite tendency, that whether the speculations of the reader be for war or peace, he will find matter to justify his opinion.

PARIS, April 1.

It has been confidently reported that the armistice between our armies and that of the Austrians on the Rhine, has been prolonged for four months. It has been farther said, that citizen Bacher, first French secretary of legation in Switzerland, had just arrived in Paris, with important dispatches from Barthelemi. If these two facts be true, we may conclude that serious negotiations are about to be opened.

FRANKFORT, March 22.

Zurich and Bern, have formally acknowledged the French Republic.

COPENHAGEN, April 1.

In the course of this week two couriers have been dispatched from hence to Paris, whose dispatches concern the negotiations for Peace.

CHARLESTON, May 20.

The following particulars, are furnished by Capt. Philips of the brig Aurora, who arrived the day before yesterday from Surinam.

On the 2d inst. being then in lat. 21, long. 68, fell in with a fleet of 11 fail of armed ships; shortly after was spoke to by the commodore, who sent his boat aboard the Aurora. It proved to be a fleet from France, with troops on board, bound to Cape Francois. The officer who came on board informed, that they had captured in the European seas, 11 fail of transports, with troops and stores on board, from England bound for Jamaica; which they had sent for France.

Capt. Philips says, that 8 ships of the line appeared to him to be 74 and 64 gun ships, which had been cut down, and had one tier of guns; two others were frigates; the other was a large transport. They appeared very full of men. The officer said but a few minutes on board of the Aurora; he expected they would make their port in two or three days.

Cleared.

Brig Brutus, Fanning N. York
Elizabeth, Shoemaker Hamburg
Sloop George, Haskall New-Port

PORT OF PHILADELPHIA

Table with columns: Ship Name, Origin, Days. Includes entries like Ship Fame, Jones, Surinam 36; Catharine, Starbuck, Liverpool 32; James, Vernon, Port-de-Paix 15; South Carolina, Garman, Charleston 6; Snow Hebe, Gay, London 49; Peggy, Cunningham, Havre 52; Brig Beaver, Cooke, Surinam 29; Abby, Elliott, Nantz 49; Adson, Burnham, Dublin 45; Peggy, Kilby, Jamaica 55; Schooner Polly and Sally, Teneiff 22; John, Coffin, Boston 8; Nancy, M'Dowell, Virginia 8; Dolphin, Potts, Norfolk 2.

The Ship Boston Packet, Tennant from Philadelphia to London was cast ashore on the 15th Feb. at St. Valieres on the coast of France. The Ship, the greater part of the cargo, the captain and crew were saved.

Capt. Jones, of the Fame, spoke a schooner from Tortola, who informed him they fell in with a French fleet of 12 fail of the line off Turk's Island.

The arrival of a French fleet at the Cape, 4 days before the James left Port-de-Paix, is mentioned by the captain of that ship as a report there.

WANTED,

Several Apprentices to the Printing-Business Apply at the Office of the Gazette of the United States, No. 119, Chestnut-Street.