

Philadelphia,

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 4, 1796.

BY THIS DAY'S MAIL.

GEORGE TOWN, May 31.

On Saturday, the 28th inst. entered ship *Britannia*, Pearson, from Port Glasgow—she sailed April 18. We have obtained the GLASGOW COURIER of April 12th, from which we have extracted the following European News. It is of a later date than any that has yet come to hand.

GLASGOW, April 22.
RETROSPECT.

The intelligence received from Germany and France, during the past week, evinces that both parties are determined, if the negotiations fail, to prosecute the ensuing campaign with redoubled vigour, while it is evident from the contending armies retiring more and more to their own country, that they shrink from the idea of putting a termination to the armistice. Both are convinced of the propriety of making peace; but each seems suspicious and jealous of the other. General reports are rather in favor of peace. It is strongly asserted that attempts have actually been made to negotiate. Of this much we are confident, that peace is earnestly desired by every friend to Great Britain, but only such a peace as we are fully entitled to, from our not being the aggressors in the war, from our being dragged into it, and from the unparalleled success which has attended his majesty's arms.

The great fall which has taken place in the price of grain in England, will soon, we doubt not, be general over the kingdom. Within these ten days only, nearly 50 vessels have arrived at Leith and Grangemouth, with grain, flour and meal.

The sentence passed on admiral Cornwallis, while it justifies the conduct of the admiralty in bringing him to trial, shews that no man, whatever his rank and abilities may be, can, with impunity, depart from his instructions, while there remains a hope of his being able to execute them.

With satisfaction we record every act of benevolence, and with pleasure we now mention, that Mr. Wm. Gillespie, of Anderson, has, for this month past, been supplying the poor and labouring people of that village, with oatmeal, barley, meal, and pease-meal, at three pence a peck, below the market price.

Proceedings in Parliament.

HOUSE OF PEERS, Thursday April 7.

Lord Lauderdale gave notice that the Marquis Lansdowne would postpone his intended motions, as certain papers which he had proved were not ready to be produced. His lordship moved for the accounts of the exports and imports for 1792—3—4 and 5. He also moved that a copy of the contract entered into for transport vessels to convey troops to the West-Indies, be laid before the house. He complained of the improvidence of this contract, exceeding any which had taken place during the American war, and wished its production, as material in the intended motion of Marquis Lansdowne respecting the state of finance and the war.

Lord Grenville wished the noble Earl had previously communicated to him his intended motion; he should then have informed himself whether or not it would be prudent to comply with it, previous to the full accomplishment of the objects for which the contracts were made. Without this information he could only say, the tendency of the motion might or might not be innocent. When this motion was brought forward he would be contented with advancing argument against argument.

Lord Lauderdale, after ridiculing the idea of secrecy in the contracts of the board of transports, agreed to withdraw his motion until the Secretary of State had made the necessary inquiries.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
Wednesday, April 6.

No business done there being only 34 members present.

April 7. Lord Stafford (Lord in waiting) presented his Majesty's answer to the address of the Commons praying that copies of the papers on the trial of Col. Cawthorne be laid before the house—Ordered to lay on the table.

Mr. Pybus, one of the Lords of the admiralty presented at the bar a copy of the warrant issued by the admiralty for taking admiral Cornwallis into custody for disobedience of orders—ordered to lie on the table.

The committee on the slave carrying bill was put off till this day ten o'clock.

April 8. The corn bounty bill was read a third time and passed.

On motion of Mr. Ryder, leave was given to bring in a bill for indemnifying the persons who acted under the orders of the privy council on the 22d of November last, in remitting the duties on neutral property.

Sir Charles Morgan brought up the proceedings of the court martial held on John F. Cawthorne, Esq. which were received and laid on the table.

On motion of Gen. Smith, amended by Lord Tyroneal all the proceedings were ordered to be printed. The report of the committee on the dog tax was received and read in the following terms: "Resolved that it is the opinion of this committee that a duty not exceeding three shillings a year be imposed on all dogs without exception." After some observations by Mr. Dent, a bill was ordered to be brought in, and Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dent and some others were appointed to bring in the same.

Gen. Smith introduced his long promised motion respecting the barracks, and concluded a long speech by moving "It is the opinion of this house that it shall be referred to a committee to consider of the expediture of public money in the construct-

tion and building of barracks since the year 1790, to investigate by what authority the expence has been incurred, and to report upon the same to the house."

At 10 o'clock the house divided.

For Gen. Smith's motion 24.
Against it 98.

PORTSMOUTH, April 8.

This morning, at nine o'clock, the Court again assembled, on board the *Orion*, in Portsmouth harbour, and remained deliberating from that time until one, when the Court was opened, and strangers were admitted.

The Judge Advocate then called over the names of the members; and, having noticed, in the usual forms, the occasion for which the Court had been assembled, the time it had sat, and read over the charges, proceeded to deliver

THE SENTENCE.

"That the Court having heard the evidence in support of the Charges exhibited against the Hon. William Cornwallis, Vice admiral of the Red; and having heard his defence, and the evidence in his behalf; and having maturely weighed and considered the same, are of opinion,

"That, with respect to the two first charges, of his returning without leave, after having been ordered to proceed to Barbadoes, and of his disobeying the orders he received, *Mitconduct was imputable to him for not having shifted his flag on board the Mars or Minotaur; and proceeded in either of them to the West Indies. But, in consideration of other circumstances, the Court acquit him of any disobedience in his conduct on that occasion.*

"With respect to the third charge, of his having, after his return, disobeyed the orders of the Board of admiralty, in not going out to the West Indies in the *Atrea* frigate, the Court were of opinion that the charge was *not proved*, and therefore acquit admiral Cornwallis upon that Charge."

Admiral Cornwallis, who, during the trial, conducted himself with great firmness and composure, heard the sentence read without any emotion; and then making a slight bow to the Court, retired along with Mr. Erskine and some other friends.

The Court conducted itself with that grave and suitable decorum which has ever characterized the Naval Courts-Martial of Great Britain.

The Court was remarkably crowded.
So many flag-officers never sat on any Court-Martial before.

As soon as the sentence was communicated to the people on board the Royal Sovereign, which lay at a short distance from the *Orion*, they all got upon deck and gave three cheers.

GEORGE-TOWN, June 2.

A Gentleman procured for us several numbers of the Glasgow Courier brought by the *Britannia*. Two of them are later than the one we were before favored with. We hasten to communicate to the public their contents.

LONDON, April 10.

A cabinet meeting was held at the Secretary of State's Office on Saturday. It sat from 2 o'clock. The business supposed to be the present mercantile embarrassments. The result was sent to the king at Windsor, and yesterday the messenger returned with letters, &c. from his majesty to Mr. Pitt, and other cabinet ministers.

An arrival at Dover, in ten days from Cadiz, informs the crews of the ships of Richery's Squadron in that harbour, had mutined to a most alarming degree. It is said to be in consequence of their share of the prize money, arising from the sale of the captures made from our Straights fleet, being withheld. It is added that Richery was assassinated.

The London Editor adds, "Such are the contents of the letters. We have heard so many false reports about Richery's Squadron, that we shall be slow to believe the present intelligence.

April 11.

Late last night we received the following very important papers, which were yesterday communicated by Lord Grenville to all the foreign ministers resident at this court. They are the contents of the dispatch received on Friday last from Mr. Wickham, his majesty's Envoy to the Swiss Cantons; and appear to be the result of the measures Mr. Pitt some weeks since announced to be in train for ascertaining the real disposition of the French Directory on the question of peace or war. It will also be recollected that we mentioned about three weeks since, that we had reason to believe Mr. Wickham was the gentleman to whom Mr. Pitt alluded as being charged with his inquiry. We are sorry the result is of that gloomy nature, as to leave no other alternative with his majesty and his ministers, than of continuing the war with unabated vigour; in which determination they must, and no doubt, will, be supported by every good subject in the kingdom.

We should have been happy to have given the original French, as well as the translation, but as the translation is an official one, it will be almost equally satisfactory to the public.

In consequence of Mr. Wickham's dispatch, a message from his majesty is expected to be delivered this day by Mr. Pitt to the House of Commons.

NOTE.

Transmitted to Mr. Barthelemi, by Mr. Wickham, March 8.

The undersigned, his Britannic majesty's minister plenipotentiary to the Swiss Cantons, is authorized to convey to Monf. Barthelemi, the desire of his court to be made acquainted, through him, with the dispositions of France in regard to the object of a general pacification. He therefore requests Monf. Barthelemi to transmit to him in writing (and after having made the necessary inquiries) his answer to the following questions:

1. Is there the disposition in France to open a negotiation with his majesty and his allies for the re-establishment of a general peace, upon just and suitable terms, by sending, for that purpose, ministers to a Congress, at such place as may hereafter be agreed upon?

2. Would there be the disposition to communicate to the undersigned the general grounds of a pacification, such as France would be willing to propose; in order that his majesty and his allies might thereupon examine, in concert, whether they are such as might serve as the foundation of a negotiation for peace?

3. Or would there be a desire to propose any other way whatever, for arriving at the same end, that of a general pacification?

The undersigned is authorized to receive from Monf. Barthelemi the answer to the questions, and to transmit it to his court: but he is not in any manner authorized to enter with him into negotiation or discussion upon these subjects.

(Signed) WICKHAM.

Berne, March 8.

NOTE.

Transmitted to Mr. Wickham, by Mr. Barthelemi, March 26.

The undersigned, ambassador of the French Republic to the Helvetic Body, has transmitted to the Executive Directory the note, which Mr. Wickham, his Britannic majesty's minister plenipotentiary to the Swiss Cantons, was pleased to convey to him, dated the 8th of March. He has in command to answer it by an exposition of sentiments and dispositions of the Executive Directory.

The Directory ardently desires to procure for the French Republic, a just, honorable, and solid peace. The step taken by Mr. Wickham would have afforded to the Directory a real satisfaction, if the declaration itself which that minister makes, of his not having any order, any power to negotiate, did not give room to doubt of the sincerity of the pacific intentions of his court. In fact, if it was true that England began to know her real interests that she wished to open again for herself the sources of abundance and prosperity: if she sought for peace with good faith; would she propose a Congress, of which the necessary result must be to render all negotiations endless? Or would she confine herself to the asking in a vague manner that the French government should point out any other way, whatever, for attaining the same object, that of general pacification?

Is it that this step has had no other object than to obtain for the British government the favorable impression which always accompanies the first overtures for peace? May it not have been accompanied with the hope that they would produce no effect?

However that may be, the Executive Directory whose policy has no other guides than openness and good faith, will follow in its explanations a conduct which shall be wholly conformable to them. Yielding to the ardent desire by which it is animated to procure peace for the French Republic and for all nations, it will not fear to declare itself openly. Charged by the Constitution with the Execution of the laws; it cannot make or listen to any proposal that would be contrary to them. The Constitutional act does not permit it to consent to any alienation of that which, according to the existing laws, constitutes the territory of the Republic.

With respect to the Countries occupied by the French armies, and which have not been united to France, they, as well as other interests, political and Commercial, may become the subject of a negotiation, which will present to the Directory the means of proving how much it desires to attain speedily to a happy pacification.

The Directory is ready to receive, in this respect any overtures that shall be just, reasonable, and compatible with the dignity of the Republic.

(Signed) BARTHELEMI.

Basse, the 6th Germinal the 4th year of the French Republic (26th March 1796.)

NOTE.

The Court of London has received from its Minister in Switzerland, the answer made to the questions which he had been charged to address to monfieur Barthelemi, in respect to the opening of a negotiation for the re-establishment of general tranquillity.

This Court has seen, with regret, how far the tone and spirit of that answer, the nature and extent of the demands which it contains, and the manner of announcing them, are remote from any disposition for peace.

The inadmissible pretension is there avowed of appropriating to France all that the laws actually existing there may have comprised under the denomination of a French territory. To a demand such as this is added an express declaration that no proposal contrary to it will be made, or even listened to: and this, under the pretence of an internal regulation, the provisions of which are wholly foreign to all other nations.

While these dispositions shall be persisted in, nothing is left for the King but to prosecute a war equally just and necessary.

Whenever his enemies shall manifest more pacific sentiments, his Majesty will at all times be eager to concur in them, by attending himself, in concert with his allies, to all such measures as shall be best calculated to re-establish general tranquillity on conditions just, honorable, and permanent; either by the establishment of a Congress, which has been so often and so happily the means of restoring peace to Europe; or by a preliminary discussion of the principles which may be proposed, on either side, as a foundation of a general pacification; or, lastly by an impartial examination of any other way which may be pointed out to him for arriving at the same salutary end.

Downing-Street, April 10, 1796.

The Countries which, by the existing laws in France, constitute the French territory, are,

1. France, as it stood at the commencement of the war.
2. The French colonies in the West Indies, still occupied by France.
3. The islands of France and Mauritius.
4. Martinico and Tobago.
5. The whole island of Hispaniola.
6. Pondicherry, Chandernagore, Caribar, Mahé, and the other French establishments in India.
7. A vignon, and the county Venassin.
8. Principality of Montmelian and bishoprick of Poent-ai.
9. Savoy, Nice, and Monaco.
10. Austrian Flanders and Brabant; and gener-

ally, whatever belongs to the Emperor on this side the Rhine.

11. Maelricht, Venlo, and Dutch Flanders.

12. The Bishoprick of Liege.

On the subject of all or any of these, the Directory refuses to make, or even to receive any proposal, and insists that the negotiation shall be preceded by an admission of this claim on our part.

So that, after agreeing as a preliminary before negotiation to restore to France all we have conquered from her, and to leave her in possession of all she has conquered from Austria and Sardina, and all that has been ceded to her by Spain or Holland, besides other smaller acquisitions, we may then expect to learn from her, what other conditions she may chuse to require or grant, as the terms of Peace.

April 11. A message from the house of Peers to the Commons stated, that their Lordships had agreed to the bill for making the port of Scarborough, in the island of Tobago a free port. The American intercourse bill—The rock Salt indemnity bill and several private bills.

April 13.

For several days there have been afloat very contradictory accounts respecting the Dutch fleet. The letters of this morning positively state that Lieut. Bauder arrived at Hull from a cruise, saw, a few days since, six sail of the line and 3 frigates under the Texel—One ship of the line, with her top-mast struck.

In the army of the Prince of Conde an officer was lately beheaded, and a soldier hanged, by order of the Prince—Both were convicted of being employed by the French government to cause defections in his army.

The celebrated character, Barrere, is now at Paris, befriended by Carnot, one of the leading members of the Directory. It is also asserted that he has lately been in Sweden, in an official capacity, where he fully accomplished the object of his mission.

The Spanish fleet at Cadiz ready for sea, consists of 25 sail of the line, besides frigates and sloops.

A court banker at Berlin made a contract to supply the French government with horses for their armies. He furnished to the amount of 2,500,000 dollars, and received bills of exchange. Every one has been protested, and the banker stopped payment for that sum—The bills were paid for the horses, and those persons are involved in the distress which that want of integrity in the French government has occasioned.

Yesterday was the settling day in the stock exchange for the April accounts in consols—The great speculations engaged public attention and made opinions various. The account however was settled with less embarrassment than was expected. The consols were done for the May account in the morning at 67 5/8 1/2 but at the close many sellers at 67.

It is said that a plan for the relief of commercial men, has been suggested; that it consists of drafts of 5l. 10l. 50l. and so on to large amounts. We only speak from rumour.

A forgery to the amount of 16,000l. was committed on the Bank by a false transfer of stock. The party suspected has absconded. A clerk to an army agent, went off lately with very considerable property belonging to different persons.

The four last market days at Hornham in Saxony, wheat fell from 30l. 10s. a load to 15l. 10s. & 14l.

Fifteen Indiamen sailed from Portsmouth April 12, for the Cape of Good Hope. At the same time admiral Colpoys with 5 ships of the line and 3 frigates put to sea. Several other ships for the West Indies Mediterranean &c. Vice admiral Cornwallis to-morrow strikes his flag.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, April 11.

Plan for ameliorating the Condition of Slaves in the West-India Islands.

Mr. Francis rose to make his promised motion on this subject. He then stated his proposition: it was to give the Negroes a right in property; to give them a portion of the land. He shewed that the plan was consistent with a state of slavery, and justified by authority. The Romans afforded their slaves a protection for the enjoyment and controul of the peculium, and even the Spartans, whose treatment of their slaves was the most barbarous and treacherous, yet gave their *Helots* property; almost the whole land of the state was held upon tenure, the slave paying the master a fixed invariable tribute. He then argued that to give the slaves the hope of property would be beneficial to the master. Property is a motive for labour. Montesquieu said, the labour of the mines was maintained by the temptation of profit, and advantages given to the slaves to be accumulated at their pleasure.

Cicero had said, give slaves property and they will labour. These were the principles of his plan—to give the slaves a legal allotment of land, with necessary implements, according to age and circumstances, allowing an increase in the case of marriage; to give the land for life, to be severally liable to forfeiture in the same cases as freemen; never to separate the father from his family, without his express consent; to enact penalties for the seduction of female slaves; and heavier penalties in cases of force being used; no man to be an overseer who is not married; and his wife to have the care of the female slaves; the slaves to have jurisdiction over each other by a jury chosen among them; the overseer having the right of challenging and presiding on the trial of a negro; negroes to execute sentence; and, to secure the execution of the plan, magistrates to be appointed, who shall be well paid, independent, and without any community of interests with the planters. As a collateral part of the plan, it would be necessary to establish magistrates on the coast of Africa, to regulate purchases, in order to prevent husbands being torn from their families and children from their parents.

Mr. Francis concluded by moving, "that leave be given to bring in a bill for the better regulation and improvement of the state and condition of slaves in the West-India islands, and other states in his majesty's dominions."

EDINBURGH, April 15.

There were 296 balls of oatmeal in market on Tuesday, and the sale slow. The retail price fell two-pence the peck.